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THE LATEST POLITICAL CRISIS IN FRANCE.

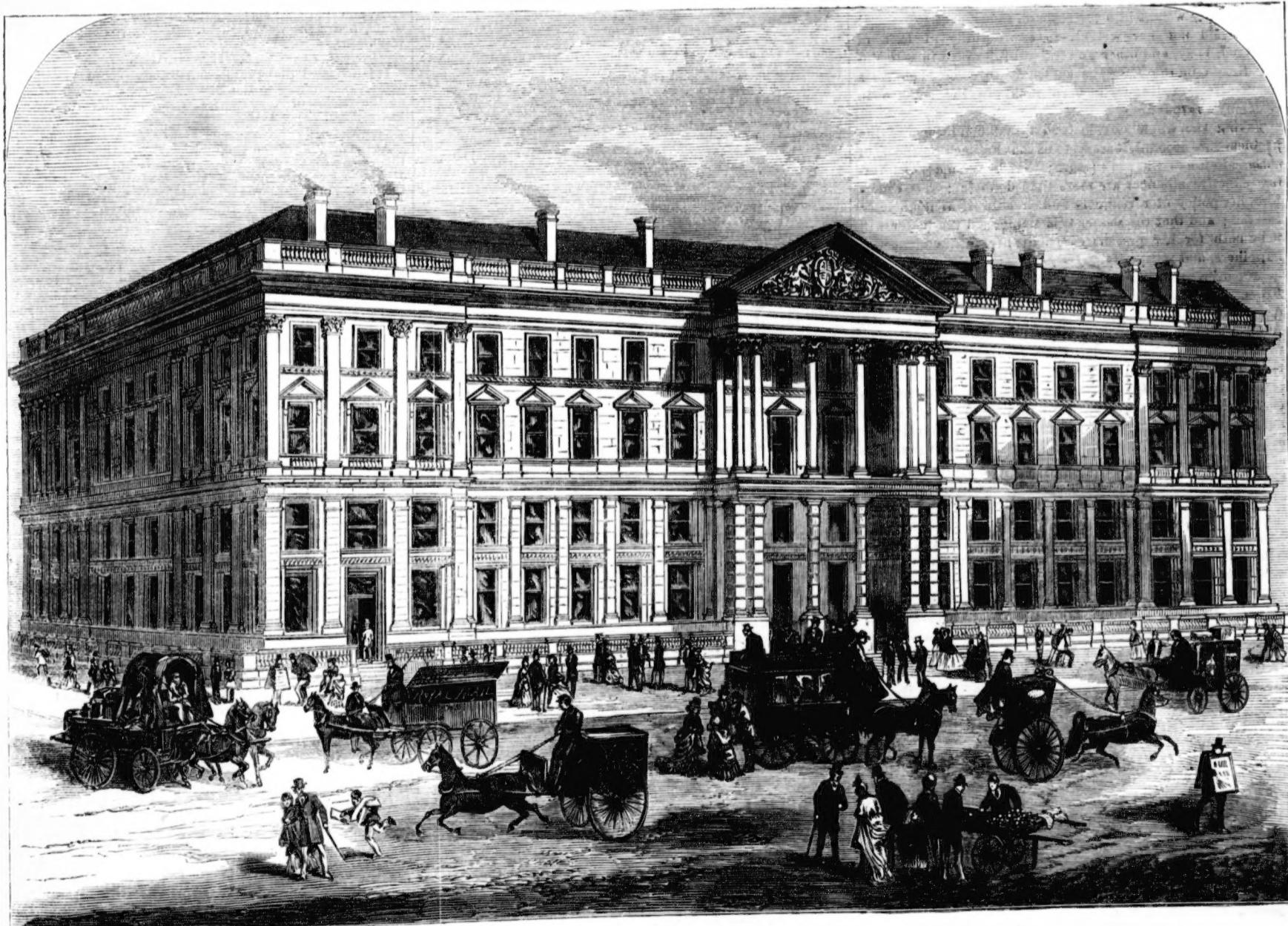
WHILE cursed with a multitude of pretenders to rule—Henry V., the Orleans Prince, Napoleon III., "Mr. Meves of London," and others—France, it seems, is blessed with only one man (M. Thiers) equal to the task of governing; and even he is not very successful at the work. Great as an orator; a sincere patriot, and eager (according to his lights) to promote the welfare of France; successful, to some extent, as a diplomatist; the President of the Republic is yet no Solon in legislation, and, we fear, is not over wise in administration. The scenes in which M. Thiers and the members of the Assembly figured on Friday and Saturday of last week, and the proposals which led to those scenes, do not exhibit either of the parties in a light to extort admiration. The President insisted on the adoption of certain taxes on the raw materials of manufactures, which showed the crotchets of obsolete Protectionism rather than the broad views of modern statesmanship; the Assembly, wiser than the Head of the Government, rejected those proposals; whereupon M. Thiers got into a rage, resigned office, carried his Ministers with him, and so left the country without a Government. This course, as M. Thiers probably expected, brought the Assembly to its knees; a resolution of confidence in him was adopted; and, after much solicitation, he consented to be mollified, and withdrew his resignation. Now, we submit that all this was not very dignified, nor yet very wise. By insisting upon unsound financial schemes, M. Thiers showed that he was far behind his time; by displaying petulance when the Assembly differed from him, he

showed want of self-command, if not rather childish self-will; and by compelling the Assembly to stoop to coaxing him back to power, he placed that body in a false position, and forced it to demean itself by sacrificing its self-respect. The result of all which is, that the relations between the Assembly and the President of the Republic are rendered less cordial than they were; and that both have suffered in the estimation and confidence of the nation: things not by any means to be desired.

But the causes of last week's imbroglio are of more importance than the imbroglio itself, or even its personal consequences. Why did M. Thiers insist upon the adoption of his project to tax raw materials? Why was it that, as he said, the tax was a tax of necessity? And how did that necessity arise? Because the policy M. Thiers pursues involves large expenditure, and to meet such expenditure heavy taxation is needed. Mr. Disraeli's dictum, that policy governs expenditure, was never so true as in the case of France just at present. She has recently sustained grave losses and suffered grievous disasters; her armies have been defeated, her soil has been conquered, her people have been impoverished, her finances have been deranged, and her resources impaired to a terrible extent. In these circumstances, what does she require? Time and opportunities for recuperation: in other words, she needs a policy of peace and economy. But a policy of peace and economy is precisely what M. Thiers—and, we are bound to say, the Assembly and people of France with him—will not adopt. They decline to accept

the situation; they fail to perceive the real source of their troubles; they will not sit down under their misfortunes, and set themselves calmly to the task of working out their own moral and physical regeneration. On the contrary, they cherish a passion for revenge, and shape their policy so as to gratify that passion at the earliest possible moment, omitting to see that their very impatience is likely to be the surest means of frustrating their aim.

The idea of Frenchmen is, that they have only to get together a large army, to construct fortifications, to accumulate stores of war material, and to look out for alliances, in order to be in a position to wipe out the disgrace they lately sustained, and, it may be, to pay back their conquerors in kind. And to accomplish these aims they are willing to vote—or at least the Assembly is willing to votey—any sums M. Thiers chooses to ask for: they merely disagree with him as to the means by which the money is to be raised. M. Thiers prefers to do it in accordance with his Protectionist prejudices; the Assembly and the people would like some other method adopted. That is all the difference between them. Nobody seems to think a change of policy desirable; nobody disputes the wisdom of M. Thiers's Budget of expenditure. The cost of the army is already set down at £18,000,000—about £3,000,000 more than the ex-Emperor ever asked for, extravagant as he was in military expenditure. But this is not all. M. Thiers asks for about £8,000,000 more—nominally as a sinking fund, to be paid over to the Bank of France in liquidation of debt due to that institution by the State; but really, as is scarcely concealed, in order



THE NEW POST-OFFICE, ST. MARTIN'S-LE-GRAND, LONDON.



that a further fund to that large extent may be available for military expenditure. This swells the army Budget to the enormous amount of £26,000,000. For what purpose? Not for defence, inasmuch as there is no likelihood of France being attacked. Then all this preparation must be intended for offensive action—that is to say, to obtain the "revenge" so eagerly longed for. Hence it comes that policy in an especial sense governs expenditure in France just now, and that enormous—almost crushing—taxation is rendered necessary. Were the policy changed, the necessity for the taxation—to a large extent, at least—would disappear.

But should the policy be changed? That is a question which no Frenchman thinks of considering; it is assumed that revenge ought to be sought, because it is natural that Frenchmen should desire it. It may be quite natural for France to feel restive under the burden of humiliation and tribute-paying to which Prince Bismarck has subjected her, and to desire revenge upon her enemy; perhaps it would be natural for any people in her place to do so; but to seek relief prematurely only proves that the French, like the rest of mankind, are mortal in folly. It would be wiser, as well as more dignified, for France to keep silence about revenge till she has rid the soil of the conqueror, and has some chance of being able to gratify her longing; and to that last condition, we fear, she will not attain till she has regenerated her people as well as reorganised her army. A new soul of manliness, a greater spirit of self-sacrifice, a less tendency to vapouring, must grow up among the masses of the French people ere they can hope to possess the right sort of instruments with which to reverse the fortunes of 1870-1, retaliate upon Germany the humiliations inflicted, and carry back the tribute already paid or cancel the obligations still existing.

Besides, do Frenchmen imagine that Prince Bismarck is ignorant of the spirit that animates them or of the designs they cherish? And do they think that Count Moltke is not keeping the hosts of Germany in readiness for any eventuality that may arise? Neither the statescraft of the one nor the watchfulness of the other, we may be well assured, is asleep; and if France were to attempt to try another fall, the probability is that she would again be overthrown, and her last estate made worse than her first. But, we are told, France will not make the effort single-handed; she will seek alliances. Probably. But is she likely to find allies willing to share her fortunes? Russia, it is thought, is likely to do so, out of jealousy of the mighty empire that has sprung up by her side, and because France can offer her advantages in the East which she has long coveted. But is not Germany in quite as good a position to make a bidding for Russia's friendship as France, if paying for benefits to yourself with other people's goods is to be the rule among nations? Cannot the Emperor William tell the Czar to work his will on Constantinople as well as M. Thiers? And would not Austria, which has so great an interest in keeping Russia from having entire control of the outlet from the Danube—to wit, of the Dardanelles—be likely to throw her weight into the scale on the side of Germany? And would not her weight, to say nothing of that of England, Italy, and other Powers—all interested in restraining Russia in the East—be sufficient to counterbalance a Franco-Russian league, and so maintain the balance in Germany's favour?

Taking the whole circumstances and conditions of the problem into account, it seems to us that France's prospects of success in a new war are meagre; that her chances of forming effective alliances are more than doubtful; that, therefore, her policy of revenge is foolish as well as financially ruinous; and that the sooner it is abandoned the better will it be both for her present ease and her future greatness, happiness, and prosperity.

Moreover, there is another consideration which, were Frenchmen wise, would weigh with them more than any other: and that is the danger liberty must incur from war. A fresh conflict with Germany, to be successful, must be protracted, and must develop some greater military genius than any France can now boast. Count Moltke, his colleagues, and their sturdy followers are not likely to succumb easily to Generals and soldiers whom they have again and again beaten—indeed, have never met but to defeat; and even should Moltke, Blumenthal, Von Goben, and the rest be swept away, successors to them are as likely to grow up in Germany—we think more so—than another Napoleon I. is to arise in France. But supposing France to be blessed—or cursed—with a great commander, and supposing her to wage a successful war, to win the revenge she hungers for, and to recover both territory and tribute, at what cost would she have to purchase those things? At that of her liberties, most assuredly; for successful warfare would result, as it ever has done, in military ascendancy, and France would either have to endure one sole dictator or submit her neck to praetorian rule: she would either have another despot sustained by bayonets, or be governed by those bayonets themselves. The state of Rome during the latter days of the Empire, that of Spain under Isabella II., and that of France herself under the first and third Napoleons, when laws and constitutions were overborne by armed force, surely cannot afford much temptation to men so attached to freedom as the French affect to be. And yet such is almost certain to be the result of an attempt to gratify their passion for revenge, even were it to succeed. What might be the consequences of failure—the more probable contingency—we do not care to imagine.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE FREEMASONS' TAVERN COMPANY have declined to permit the Dilke demonstration to be held; as announced, at the Freemasons' Tavern. The demonstration is to take place in Trafalgar-square on Monday, Feb. 5.

THE NEW POST OFFICE, CITY OF LONDON.

The Engraving on the preceding page shows the new Post Office, now approaching completion, which is situated opposite the well-known establishment in St. Martin's-le-Grand, and the foundation-stone of which was laid by her Majesty's First Commissioner of Works on Dec. 16, 1870.

The pile of building is extensive, and includes many varieties of accommodation, all, of course, in connection with the increasing postal communication both of the metropolis and the provinces. It will provide accommodation for the telegraph business, now taken up by the Government; the registered letter business, now transacted at the chief office on the opposite side of the street; the money order department, which is now located lower down in Aldersgate-street; and the savings bank department, which is to be removed from St. Paul's-churchyard. In addition to these provisions there will be a suite of official apartments for the Postmaster-General, his private secretary, official staff, &c. The business of the Circulation Department will remain in the present building, but the basement of this new building will contain two steam-engines for working the pneumatic tubes, by which telegrams will be transmitted to the various districts of the metropolis.

The building has frontage of 286 ft. to St. Martin's-le-Grand and Bath-street, and of 144 ft. to Newgate-street and Angel-street. It stands on a base of Cornwall granite 4 ft. above the ground-line, and the whole of the front is built in Portland stone facing, the total height being 84 ft. The architect, who has designed the entire building, is Mr. James Williams, an old and experienced official in H.M.'s Office of Works, under which department the building is, of course, being carried out. The contractor is Mr. Brass, of Old-street, St. Luke's, whose estimate amounts to £129,718.

THE BISHOP OF GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL, in addressing a meeting in the last-mentioned city, on Tuesday, declared that the Church must now assume an attitude of defence against the attacks of the Nonconformists, who no longer contend for toleration, nor even for equality, but for something very like supremacy.

THE EDUCATION ACT.—A great meeting was held, on Monday evening, at Heagler's Circus, Hull, in connection with the Hall Branch National Education League—Alderman Lumsden in the chair. The Rev. M. Statham moved a resolution which in effect stated that the present Elementary Education Act failed to secure a general election of school boards in towns and rural districts; that it enabled school boards to pay fees levied out of the rates to denominational schools over which the ratepayers had no control; that it enabled school boards to use the money of the ratepayers for the purpose of imparting dogmatic religion in the schools established by the boards; and that the Act provoked religious discord. The resolution further stated that, in the opinion of the meeting, Mr. Dixon's motion was worthy of their most earnest support, and that the representatives in Parliament for the district be requested to support it. Mr. George Raven and Mr. Dixon, M.P., supported the resolution. The latter said the Education Act in agricultural districts had been entirely ineffectual. Outside the large towns the education of the children of the working classes was in the hands of the Church of England and of the Church of Rome. The motion was carried, amid great enthusiasm.

EPING FOREST.—The Corporation of the city of London gained a victory on Tuesday in the Epping Forest case. It will be remembered that the Master of the Rolls gave judgment last November on the demurrars raised by the lords of the manors, who are defendants in the cause, and that, while he admitted the validity of their technical objections to the framing of the bill, he reserved judgment on the vital points at issue. The bill has been amended by the advisers of the city of London, and, as it stands now, brings to a comparatively simple issue the great question—Have lords of manors the right to inclose Epping Forest, and to sell it bit by bit for building-ground? The advocates of inclosure have attempted to prove that the original defect had not been removed from the bill, and to convince the Master of the Rolls he had been mistaken by rearguing the points upon which he had already pronounced an opinion. These tactics failed, as a matter of course; the new demurrars were, on Tuesday, overruled, with costs; and the defendants have now to put in their answers; so that the public may hope to learn before long what will be the practical result of the City's noble efforts for the common weal. The lords of manors who have inclosed have lost their first important move in the game; and this is a fact full of happy augury to all interested in the preservation of open spaces. We observe that the people of Tooting announce a public banquet in celebration of their successful resistance to the encroachments which were attempted on their beautiful common, and which were suppressed after an appeal to the law. Tooting and its vicinity represented the very principle which the city of London is endeavouring to enforce with respect to Epping Forest; and "Success to the Corporation" would be no inappropriate toast at a festival which is held in honour of the legal removal of fences and the preservation of common land.—*Daily News*.

THE FRENCH PRESS.—The following circular has been addressed by the French Minister of War to the Generals commanding military divisions:—"The press of Paris and the departments frequently publish or propagate, in respect of matters relating to politics or administration, false intelligence which it is important should be contradicted, even when the error is not the aggravation of bad faith, or of danger to the public peace, which would justify their being dealt with by the courts of law. The Minister of the Interior has resolved, after consultation with his colleagues, that 'rectifications' shall in such cases be prepared and sent to the newspapers from the Bureau de la Presse connected with his department. Their insertion will not be compulsory, but the refusal to rectify in that form an erroneous assertion would be a clear evidence of bad faith, sufficient to justify proceedings which would probably result in condemnation. That mode of proceeding is certainly preferable to polemics, which are useless even when they present no other inconvenience, and my intention is to co-operate in an efficacious manner as far as possible in carrying out the regulations which I have explained to you as far as relates to the army, or the administration of the War Department. I have, therefore, the honour to request that in future you bring to my knowledge any journals published within the limits of your command which may contain in respect of military facts or questions statements which it may be requisite to contradict, taking care when furnishing me with a copy of the journal to forward precise information relative to the object of the required contradiction."—The Minister of War, DE CISSEY."

THE LIVINGSTONE EXPEDITION.—At the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, on Monday evening, the following letter from the Treasury to Sir Henry Rawlinson was read:—"I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd inst., written on behalf of the council of the Royal Geographical Society, soliciting a grant from the Government in aid of the expedition which it is proposed to send out in search of Dr. Livingstone; and to inform you in reply that my Lords, after full consideration, are of opinion that the direction in which the proposed search should be made is too doubtful to warrant public expenditure upon it. A new expedition is not the only means left through which Dr. Livingstone's safety may be reasonably hoped for.—I am, &c., William Law." Mr. Markham, the secretary, stated that this decision would not be allowed to retard the preparations for the expedition for a single day. Nearly 200 persons had volunteered to take part in it, and the choice of a leader had fallen upon Lieutenant Lewellyn Dawson, R.N., a scientific seaman, who possessed most of the qualifications which were needed to fill so difficult and trying a post, and in whose ability and judgment the council had perfect confidence. The expedition would leave England early in February in the Abyssos steamer, chartered by Messrs. J. Wiseman and Co., who had generously undertaken to convey all stores free of charge, and, if possible, to secure free passages for the members of the expedition. In the discussion which took place on the subject it was suggested that the council should call on the Government to state what they meant by the last sentence of their letter. Sir Henry Rawlinson said the council had entirely failed to guess what could possibly be alluded to, and were in the dark as to what the alternative course suggested, if one was meant to be suggested, could possibly be. For his own part, he was inclined to believe that it meant that Dr. Livingstone might find his own way back, so that a little public money might be saved. Sir Henry observed, however, that the answer of the Treasury did not necessarily commit the whole Government. Mr. Dallas, Governor of Rupert's Land, thought that, after the bold resolution of the Government to aid in the expedition, they ought to be asked what was the alternative scheme at which they hinted. Sir Henry Rawlinson said it had never occurred to the council to ask the Treasury any question connected with geography. They considered themselves far better judges on that subject than the Treasury could be. Sir Henry also stated that the subscriptions received amounted to £1700, and public meetings in the great towns throughout the country were to be held in aid of the fund. He had received an invitation from the Lord Mayor inviting him to wait on him with a view to arrange for a great public meeting in the City for the same purpose. Lieutenant Dawson was afterwards introduced to the meeting by the president, and was warmly received. A meeting, convened by the Lord Provost, was held in the Council Hall, Glasgow, on Monday, to organise subscriptions towards the Livingstone Expedition Fund. A large committee was appointed, and £200 was raised at the meeting. On Wednesday the Lord Mayor received a deputation from the Council of the Royal Geographical Society, and, in compliance with their suggestion, convened a public meeting of the citizens of London, to be held in the Egyptian Hall of the Mansion House, on Tuesday next, at three o'clock, with a view to raise the necessary funds to defray the expenses of the proposed expedition in search of Dr. Livingstone. The meeting is likely to be very largely attended.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The vote of the National Assembly against the tax on raw material (particulars regarding which are given in another column) was followed by the resignation of the Ministers, and M. Thiers at the same time announced his intention of retiring from his high office. This step seems to have alarmed the members of the Assembly, and several deputations waited on M. Thiers, and explained that the vote was not directed against him; that it was in no way political, but solely financial and economic. M. Thiers, however, persisted, and at the sitting of the Assembly on Saturday a message from M. Thiers was read announcing his resignation and that of the Ministry. This gave rise to an excited discussion, ultimately ending in a vote appealing to the patriotism of M. Thiers, and a refusal to accept his resignation. A deputation then proceeded to convey the wish of the Assembly to M. Thiers, who at last relented, and the deputation returned to the Chamber and announced that he had consented to remain in the service of the Assembly. The Ministers also resumed their portfolios at the request of the President. Marshal MacMahon visited M. Thiers last Saturday, and solicited the withdrawal of his resignation in the name of the army, which would respect the orders of the majority of the Assembly, but would not obey dictatorship.

A new Government scheme for the taxation of raw material, slightly differing from the first proposal, has been distributed among the deputies. It is only applicable as a last resource.

The Assembly has voted immediate examination by a Committee of the proposal of M. Duval authorising the Government to terminate the Commercial Treaties, and the examination by the same Committee of a proposal of M. Johnston demanding the nomination of a Committee of fifteen to inquire into the expediency of terminating those treaties. A majority of the Committee chosen is said to be favourable to the denunciation of the treaties.

The Government appears to be very uneasy at the state of Marseilles. A concentration of troops and the naval division has been effected, and the mitrailleuse are charged ready to put down any disturbance.

M. Rouher, the well-known Imperialist, has issued an address to the electors of Corsica, in which he describes the political position of France as one of uncertainty, obscurity, and continual alarm. He says that the supreme duty of all parties is to appeal respectfully to the national will, and to acknowledge the definitive Government which it may create. M. Rouher, in conclusion, declares that his name is a symbol, and his candidature is that of a friend of exile and misfortune. It is rumoured to be the intention of the Government again to send an Extraordinary Commissioner to Corsica. M. Savelli, the Republican candidate there, has issued an address replying to the circular of M. Rouher. Prince Napoleon has been re-elected a member of the Council General of Ajaccio.

The Mayor of Montpellier and the Mayor of Pignan have been dismissed, the former for not having provided a sufficient force of police at the time of the Cathelineau demonstration in that town, and the latter for a speech he made against the present state of affairs on the same occasion.

M. Arles Dufour, the well-known advocate of free trade, is dead.

A singular incident has arisen in connection with the trial of the prisoners charged with murdering the hostages in Paris. Pigalle, one of the accused, has, it seems, been hitherto mistaken for another man, whom he closely resembles, and who has now been arrested, brought before the Court, and identified. The sentences on the murderers were pronounced on Monday. Genton was sentenced to death, Francois to hard labour for life, Latour Fortin to twenty years' hard labour, Ramin to ten years' hard labour; Girardot, Granjeault, Levin, Poidevin, Herault, Lamereux, Leseneschal, and Marault to transportation for life; Giroult to five years' imprisonment, and Hure to twelve months' imprisonment; Picon, Langbein, Vattier, Pigerre, Denain, Pechin, the woman Prevost, and the girl Grandel were acquitted.

An accident occurred, on Wednesday, on the Antibes Railway, to the train from Nice to Cannes. The train was thrown into a river, and six persons are known to have been killed, seven were saved, and eight were injured. Thirty passengers were in the train.

SWITZERLAND.

It is reported that Prussia and Russia intend to address energetic remonstrances to the Swiss Federal Council in consequence of the excess of toleration extended to the International in Switzerland.

ITALY.

At the meeting of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, on Monday, there were, for the second time, not sufficient members to make a House, and the President very properly expressed his regret at the indifference displayed by the deputies to their duties.

The Census, which has just been taken, shows the population of Rome to be 240,000.

SPAIN.

The Spanish Ministry has been defeated in the Cortes on the election of a President for the Chamber. The Government made it a Cabinet question, and their candidate, Senor Herrera, was defeated by 170 votes against 120. Senor Sagasta immediately after repaired to the palace to report the vote to his Majesty. The President of the Council told his Majesty that there were two alternatives open—a dissolution of the Cortes or a change of the Ministry. In Wednesday's sitting of the Cortes a decree dissolving the Senate and the Congress was read. The new Cortes will meet on April 24, and the elections will commence on the 2nd of that month.

BELGIUM.

The *Indépendance Belge* publishes a communication to the effect that, in consequence of the strike of the carpenters, the masters have decided to increase the rate of wages 10 per cent, as soon as work is resumed. If the men do not return to work by the 30th inst., on the 31st the masters will close their workshops.

GERMANY.

The Judicial Councillor, Dr. Falk, has been appointed Prussian Minister of Ecclesiastical Instruction and of Medical Affairs, *civis* Herr von Mühl, who resigned in consequence of his ecclesiastical proclivities being at variance with the views now held by Government on the question of education.

The draught of an extradition treaty between this country and Germany has been laid before the German Federal Council, and the ratifications are to be exchanged within a month.

The Federal Council has resolved to request the Imperial Chancellor to take the necessary steps for inserting a provision in the supplementary convention to the treaty of peace, to the effect that all literary conventions concluded between Germany and France are included in the treaty of peace, and that the commercial and navigation conventions of Mecklenburg and the Hanse cities with France are also embodied therein.

AUSTRIA.

The Croatian Diet has been dissolved. The Imperial rescript dissolving it states that, in view of the manifesto made by the members in September last, and the refusal therein to acknowledge the compromise laws, no beneficial action could be expected from the present Diet.

At a recent sitting of the Committee on the Constitution, the President of the Ministry stated that it was impossible for the Government to agree wholly and entirely to the Galician resolution, as its adoption would result in the creation of a State within the State, a contingency which must be avoided, for the sake of the internal and external relations of the country. On the other hand, the Government would willingly assent to all concessions towards Galicia which were consistent with the unity of the Monarchy, and it regarded the motion presented on the subject as affording a proper basis for further negotiations. The Minister

added that the Government wished to see the Parliamentary representation of the country complete, and believed this could be attained by the Compulsory Election Bill. If this succeeded, the Reichsrath would be able to adopt definitive resolutions upon the Galician question, and it would then be possible to proceed to a renewal of the Reichsrath from all the provinces by direct elections.

RUSSIA.

The increase in the revenue for 1872 is estimated at eight million roubles; the duties on liquors are raised 8 per cent, and the customs 11 per cent. The expenditure is increased by 7,800,000 roubles. The Minister of Finance announces that, by reason of the favourable revenue, the Budget of 1871 has been balanced without having recourse to a loan or increased taxation. In the Budget for 1872 the expenditure of the War Department has been raised by six millions, the Naval Department by three millions, and for railways and harbour works seven millions, which amounts will be covered by special funds, amounting to 44 millions.

TURKEY.

A telegram from Constantinople announces that cholera has completely disappeared, and that ships receive clean bills of health.

THE UNITED STATES.

A resolution to amend the Constitution by making naturalised citizens eligible for the presidency of the United States has been rejected by the House of Representatives.

The Liberal Republicans of Missouri have summoned a National Mass Convention, which will be held at Cincinnati on May 6, to take action relative to the Presidential election.

INDIA.

Ram Singh and the other Kooka chiefs were arrested on the 17th inst. Forty-nine Kookas have been executed. The Government troops from Delhi were not engaged. The outbreak is reported to be suppressed.

AUSTRALIA.

The Melbourne eclipse expedition has proved a failure in consequence of the unfavourable state of the weather. Telegraphic communication with Port Darwin, in connection with the Australian cable, is now partially completed.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Further consignments of diamonds from the Cape reached this country, on Tuesday, by the mail-steamer. There was a report in the colony that two diamonds, each weighing more than 1000 carats, had been found, but it was discredited. The total value of the diamonds exported during the year is estimated at a million and a half sterling.

THE DEFEAT OF M. THIERS.

THE sitting of the Assembly, on the 19th inst., was the most riotous and exciting which has occurred this Session. The House was crammed with eager visitors. Every box and every seat were occupied; but, though there was something in the air which betokened trouble, no one foresaw the grave results which the afternoon was to bring forth. M. Casimir Périer opened the discussion on the project for taxing raw material by indicating in a few words the attitude and the wishes of the Government. He was listened to with attention and respect, but in substance he simply confirmed what M. Thiers had said when he called upon the Chamber to vote the principle of the tax on raw materials, leaving the amount to be produced on the tax and the details of the tariff to be settled afterwards. He was followed by M. Marcel Barthé, who began to read a resolution he had prepared, and had got as far as "the Chamber accepts the principle of a tax on raw materials," when he was interrupted by a roar of shouts which lasted several minutes and rendered further progress impossible. So M. Barthé shrugged his shoulders, looked amazed, and waited with such patience as he could, until, by reiterated ringing of the President's huge bell and by screams of silence from the huissier, calm was restored to permit him to go on. He then began again, and managed to pronounce the whole of his proposition, which was that the Chamber accepted the principle of a tax on raw materials. More shouting followed when M. Barthé had finished, but he got back to his seat without any personal harm. Then came M. Lucien Brun, who had a totally different plan to offer, and then other deputies, all of whom were screamed at as if they had been candidates at an Irish election. Finally came M. Thiers, very nervous and very querulous, who, with the smallest of voices and with much appearance of wishing to avoid being at all unpleasant, succeeded in saying the most unpleasant things and in putting the Chamber into a still wilder state than before. Among other observations, he said that the discussion had lasted eighteen days, that it was time to leave off repeating the same arguments at each sitting, that the debates had placed France in a *triste* position in the eyes of Europe, and that the dignity of the country called for an immediate solution. The Chamber got so vastly angry at this that the noise became scarcely credible. But when M. Feray got up, and began by saying that these eighteen days of discussion had in no way lessened the position of the Chamber in the eyes of the country, there burst out a roar of applause of which one rarely hears the like. It must have gone to the heart of poor M. Thiers, so universal, so enthusiastic was it. Right, Left, and Centre rang with clapping hands and cries of "Bravo!" This indicated pretty clearly that the President of the Republic had pricked the Chamber to the quick, which was not to be wondered at, considering that they might fairly question whether the want of dignity lay chiefly in the President, who had spoken himself seventeen times in eighteen days, or in themselves, who had consented so often patiently to listen to him. After this furious outburst, M. Feray concluded by moving a third proposition in opposition to that of M. Barthé and the Government. More attempts to speak were then made, but all were hopeless. The Left had worked itself into a frenzy of rage against M. Thiers, and was burning with a desire to show it. The continuous procession of would-be orators was howled at, as if each of them was good to eat, and the Chamber full of hungry wolves gasping for food. As they struggled up the steps into the tribune and stood there deprecatingly, they looked like witnesses at a trial being bullied by a cross-examiner out of temper. At last, towards half-past four, cries of "Clôture! Clôture!" began to rise among the Right; vain efforts were made by impatient speakers, but the closing of the discussion was voted by five-sixths of the House. Then up sprang Mr. Johnston, son of a well-known Englishman who established the great wine house at Bordeaux, with a clear, ringing voice, which contrasted singularly with his almost boyish aspect. He said— "I fear that the Government, in asking you to vote the principle of the tax on raw material, is seeking to make you implicitly vote, at the same time, the principle of the denunciation of the treaties of commerce." This intelligent and strategical observation made the House once more boil over. The thunder of shouts rolled instantly to an intensity which even that wild sitting had not yet reached; but when the white head of M. Thiers was seen struggling past other men's shoulders to reach the tribune, silence instantly returned, the Assembly desiring to hear what answer he would make to this clever attack. He declared that the question of the treaties of commerce was reserved, and would come on for discussion next week. No one applauded him, however; though, when he returned for the fourth time to the tribune, ten minutes afterwards, he did secure a little applause by one of those phrases "*à effet*" which he deals out so ably when he wants to create a diversion. But it was no use; he had set the tide against him, and on it rolled, strong and savage. The House had at last made up its mind that it would vote at once, just as it had determined the day before that it would not vote at all. The tumult was, however, so violent that it was utterly impossible for the President to put in one word. Vainly he rang his bell. Vainly he waved his arms about with the hope of conveying semaphoric communications to

the excited crowd which the theory of the House supposes him to keep in order. Vainly some of the deputies themselves yelled "Silence!" or hissed a "Hush!" Nearly a quarter of an hour passed before it was possible to hear, and even then the quiet was but relative, for stragglers were still running to their seats before the vote, like ants making for their hole. At last M. Grévy was able to call upon the Chamber to decide whether it would vote first on Feray's or on Barthé's proposal. Everybody felt that the answer on this preliminary point would foreshadow the result of the division on the question itself. It was, therefore, with curious anxiety that the spectators in that crammed House looked down upon the 700 gentlemen in the pit. When the President cried out, "Those who are in favour of priority for M. Feray's resolution will be pleased to stand up," up got almost the entire Left and Centre Left, with some few members of the Centre Right. Then came the *contre-épreuve*. Up got the entire Right, with the majority of the Centre Right. Looked at from a tribune in the centre of the Chamber, it seemed evident that the Centre Right had turned the scale against the Government; but the President seemed doubtful. He kept the Right still standing to be looked at by the secretaries, who, two and two on each side of him, were endeavouring to estimate the relative number of standers and sitters, and who with that object twisted their heads about and held their hands over their eyes with an intensely arithmetical expression. They reminded one of a nervous judge at country races, squinting behind the winning-post at a dead heat. And a dead heat it was; for, after two minutes of hesitation, the President informed the House that it was *une épreuve douteuse*, and must be begun again. No result was, however, obtained the second time. The two sides were so nearly balanced in appearance that the President and secretaries would not accept the responsibility of judging. The consequence of two *épreuves douteuses* is to necessitate a *scrutin*, so out the deputies went to vote. All this had carried the emotion of the lookers-on to fever height, for everyone had suddenly discovered that the Government was going to be beaten. In twenty minutes the voting was terminated, and the deputies were back in their seats once more. This time they were as quiet as if they were at church; they wanted to hear the figure of the vote, and held their tongues while the President informed them that the priority of the Feray proposition had been carried by 377 votes to 329. Scarcely any applause followed this announcement, and, after a small attempt to postpone the final vote until next day, the Feray resolution was carried against the Government by a majority even larger than the first one.

NEW CARDINALS AND THE NEW POPE.

Rome, Jan. 18.

THE great question on the order of the day at the Vatican continues to be that of the appointment of new Cardinals and the possible demise, from one moment to the other, of the present Pontiff. The Sacred College, with a very few exceptions, is composed of Italians. The sudden death of Pius IX. would leave the Church completely in their hands. In order to prevent this, several European Powers have, for the last six months, been insisting at the Vatican that new Cardinals should be appointed; and it is even rumoured that in a consistory to be held next month the Pope will appoint fifteen, among whom there will be two or three Germans, two Hungarians, one Polish, and one Portuguese. If Pius IX. were a very nervous man, the mere fact that hours and hours are spent in discussing whether, in the event of his death, he should be buried according to old custom, and his successor be appointed according to the laws of the Church, would suffice to kill him. The ceremonies which must be observed at the death of a Pope are numerous and interesting. As soon as he has expired, his head is covered, and nobody can touch him, or remove him from his bed, until the death has been duly certified with all the legal formalities. A Cardinal is ushered, by Monsignor the Master of the Chamber, into the bed-room of the deceased, several members of the Palatine Guard and the Apostolic Notary following him. One of the private servants of the Pope uncovers the face of the dead Pontiff, and the Cardinal, having authenticated the death, receives from the hands of the Master of the Chamber the Anello Piscatorio. It is then the duty of the Apostolic Notary to write out and read aloud the legal acknowledgment of the recognition of the body and the consignment of the Anello. This done, all retire, and the Penitentiaries of St. Peter's alone remain in the room of the deceased, to offer up prayers for his soul. On leaving the apartments of the Pope, the Cardinal immediately signs an order that the great bell of the Capitol shall announce to the public the sad event. On the bell beginning to toll all the churches must follow, and funeral services commence everywhere. Couriers are at once dispatched to the several Catholic Courts to communicate the news, and the same couriers have to invite those Cardinals who may be absent from Rome to repair immediately to the Eternal City in order to take part in the election of a new Pope. The Pontiff dead, the spiritual power (and formerly even the temporal power) passes into the hands of the Sacred College of Cardinals, three of them providing for everything. Four-and-twenty hours having elapsed since the death of the Pontiff, his body is embalmed; then dressed and exhibited in the hall where consistories are usually held, the public having free access until night. The body is then carried into the Sistine Chapel, where it is attired in the Pontifical robes and laid on a sort of bed, surrounded by lights. There it remains the whole night; the Canons and Penitentiaries of St. Peter's officiating. On the following morning the clergy of the Vatican, with lighted torches, together with the Cardinals, proceed to the Sistine Chapel, and the Papal Chaplains having said several prayers, the body is carried into the church in the following order:—The cross of the Basilica; the clergy; the coffin, carried by eight priests; the Swiss Guard, in full uniform; the Cardinals, who walk two and two; and the prelates, who recite prayers. The body is deposited in the centre of the great nave; the Cardinals place themselves in two rows around the coffin; the choristers of the Vatican Chapel sing the "Libera me, Domine;" and the vicar, attired in Pontifical robes, pronounces absolution. This ceremony over, the body is carried into the Chapel of Sacraments, and so placed that the feet may remain uncovered for the people to kiss during the three days it remains there, protected by the Swiss Guards. The following morning the Cardinals meet in congregation in the sacristy of the Basilica of the Vatican, and remain there during nine days for the celebration of religious duties. At the first congregation the secretary of the Sacred College reads various documents for the good direction of the conclave. A Cardinal presents the Anello Piscatorio, which is immediately broken up, together with the lead casts of the bulls which are sent from the chancelleries. Two Cardinals superintend the formation of the conclave. The public magistrates being confined in their office, or new ones appointed, the Conservators of Rome used to be presented to the members of the Sacred College, to express to them obedience and grief for the loss of the Pontiff. During the nine days the confessor of the members of the conclave, two medical men, a surgeon, a chemist, and two barbers are appointed by secret ballot; and new cells are allotted to the Cardinals. After a series of religious functions the body of the Pontiff is interred with great pomp.

Poor Pius IX. is daily discussing, together with his courtiers, whether, in case of his death, these formalities are or are not to be observed. The capital is in the hands of heretics. Shall we invite them to toll the bells and announce the death of Pius IX.? Would it be right, after the Pontiff has been a prisoner so long at the Vatican, that his body should be publicly exhibited in St. Peter's for the usurpers to laugh at? The Conservators of Rome exist no longer, and who will in their place represent Rome and express the feelings of the faithful inhabitants of the Eternal City? And this is not all. The regular formalities for the election of a new Pope are far more complicated. How will it be possible to observe them all? Foreign Governments know that it is the intention of Pius IX. to alter the old system, and it is pre-

cisely for this reason that they insist on new Cardinals being appointed. Their object is to protect the real interests of the Church against the intrigues and passions of Ultramontane fanatics.—*Correspondent of "Daily News."*

SKETCHES FROM BUENOS AIRES.

IN former numbers of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES we published a view of Buenos Ayres, with some sketches and descriptions of the people, and this week we have had forwarded for publication in our columns two pictures by a French artist, who has just made an excursion to the celebrated city while Paris sets itself to rights, after which he will, doubtless, return to that capital of civilisation, never forgotten by its sons and very seldom deserted by its daughters. Says the letter sent with the sketches:—

"Since the morning we have been navigating the Rio de la Plata. What a beautiful name! Silver River (Fleuve de l'Argent). A master stream sure enough, with a mouth a dozen times bigger than the Lake of Geneva at Evian.

"Do you see that rather shadowy line?" said one of the passengers to me—an old Atlantic excursionist, who was coming back to America for the fifteenth time; "do you see a kind of blackish rim with several white spots? That is Buenos Ayres."

"I opened my eyes wide; I blinked; I shaded my eyelids with my hands; I peered through my binocular. The fact is, I could see nothing at all, and did see nothing for four or five hours afterwards, though my obliging friend shrugged his shoulders in evident contempt for such a short-sighted mortal. Then a city began to develop itself on the horizon. It was Buenos Ayres; gay, verdant, founded with sunshine, upon an even, uniform tract of several kilometres in extent.

"Out! charming voyage! that it should come to an end!" said a poor fellow of a Basque, who, believing that we should not immediately go on shore, began to collect his tools and leave them on to his shoulder ready for a return to labour.

"We were only two miles from the bank. All my companions, for the most part emigrants, were grouped on the deck. In saluting the new country they appeared to be full of varied and tumultuous emotions. Some of them were old, but still young in imagination, and its golden dreams. They seemed to regard the American soil as the true El Dorado, and say to themselves, 'At last we are rich.' In another group a husband was embracing his wife and children, happy, as it seemed, to have reached in safety a new land, and to have escaped from one which they had left with little regret. We were exactly in front of the Custom House when we arrived, between the arms of two jetties. With a good glass we could have counted the streets, which came down to the river and were traversed by other streets at right angles. All at once we came to a standstill. General stupor! Was the rudder broken, or had the pilot died suddenly? Eh? by Columbus, why don't we land? Will they put us into quarantine? Is this a reminiscence of the hulks? Is it because we come from France that we are to be looked upon as pestiferous?

"Patience! patience!" said my former interlocutor. "We must wait here till sundown. You will then see horses, carriers, and boatmen ready to help us to disembark; but not during the heat, at risk of sunstroke."

"But this Buenos Ayres of yours is a most detestable port to be kept in for above two hours, under a sun of fire."

"Detestable, my dear Sir! What! a place that receives 5000 sailing-vessels and 1200 steamers a year! A town of 280,000 inhabitants, which has grown out of the earth as if by enchantment!"

"It was impossible to persist. The heat was too insupportable, with the thermometer 37 in the shade.

"Very soon an agent of the Emigration Asylum boarded us and distributed circulars of his establishment, printed in five languages. It was an admirable retreat, and we gladly availed ourselves of its hospitality for a few hours. Admirable, but modest; modest in its appearance, in its sleeping apartments, in its beds (which were but wooden planks), in the intelligence of its attendants, and in its cuisine. I ate some 'puchero,' which was capital; but meat is remarkably cheap here. Beef and mutton are fabulously low in price, two sous a pound. If you would like to be served with a sort of Homeric banquet, and have an entire ox or sheep brought to table, you can do it for 50f. and 6f. respectively. Would you like a horse?—25f.! Fish also is plentiful; and you should see how they fish in the Plata! I send a sketch of it. It is done by the Guachos, who, nimble as apes, take the ends of a long rope that spreads the net and drag it towards the shore, sometimes fastening it to the cruppers of their horses. The horses themselves are not of much account; but the carriers are a lively race, and so picturesque that I also send a sketch of a group of them as they appear when halting on a journey."

COMMUNIST PRISONERS AT VERSAILLES.

THE last act, if not the last scene, of the terrible drama of the Commune has been one of the principal events of the political week in Paris, and has had its surprises and startling effects, some of which have been sad enough to move even hard hearts to pity, and others not without that grim humour which is so often associated with horrible events. We have from time to time published illustrations of the various places to which the prisoners have been consigned—in forts, on board hulks, in the regular gao at Versailles, and in the timber-yard. Our present Engraving (probably the last of the series) represents the wretched spectacle of the unfortunate men, confined in the cellars of the great stables of the once Royal town, which became the seat of Government because of the rebellion of its present prisoners. The number of prisoners, which has been constantly increasing since the end of April last year, had compelled the Government to crowd the places to which they were confined, and this had the effect of increasing the discomforts of the miserable captives.

They have been divided into three categories. Those who had not taken any prominent part in the insurrection, and had not been convicted of criminal offences, were successively liberated, the same leniency being shown to sub-officers of the Commune who had also been inoffensive. The latter, however, were placed under the surveillance of the police after their acquittal. Officers as well as civilians found guilty of criminal acts were sent before the Courts-Martial. It is believed that in the course of two or three months—that is to say, at about the anniversary of the Government victory—the commissions and councils will have completed the trials.

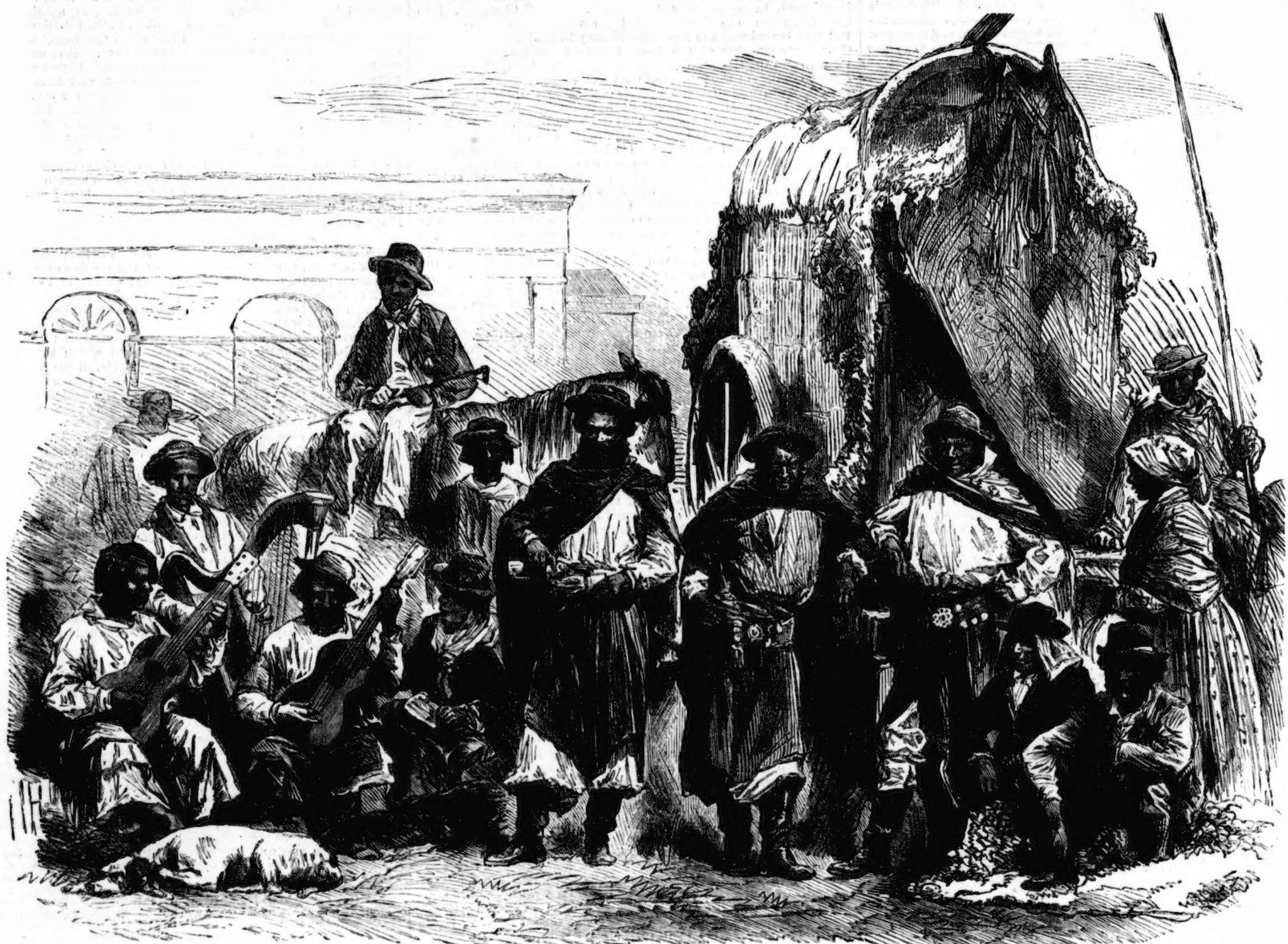
THE BODY OF A MAN NAMED DOUGLAS, the guard of a goods-train from Berwick to Edinburgh, has been found mutilated, near Preston Grange station. The second guard, whose name is Bennett, has been apprehended on suspicion. It is said that the two were seen quarrelling on passing the station.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—The nomination for the northern division of the West Riding has been fixed for Feb. 3, and the election is to take place on the 6th, the date of the meeting of Parliament. Mr. Isaac Holden and Mr. F. S. Powell, who formerly represented Knaresborough and Cambridge respectively, the one as a Liberal and the other as a Conservative, are the only candidates before the electors.—Mr. Laing has withdrawn from the contest for the representation of the Wick Barbs; and Mr. Robert Reid, of Oxford, has arrived at Wick, with a view to prosecuting a canvass on advanced Liberal principles.

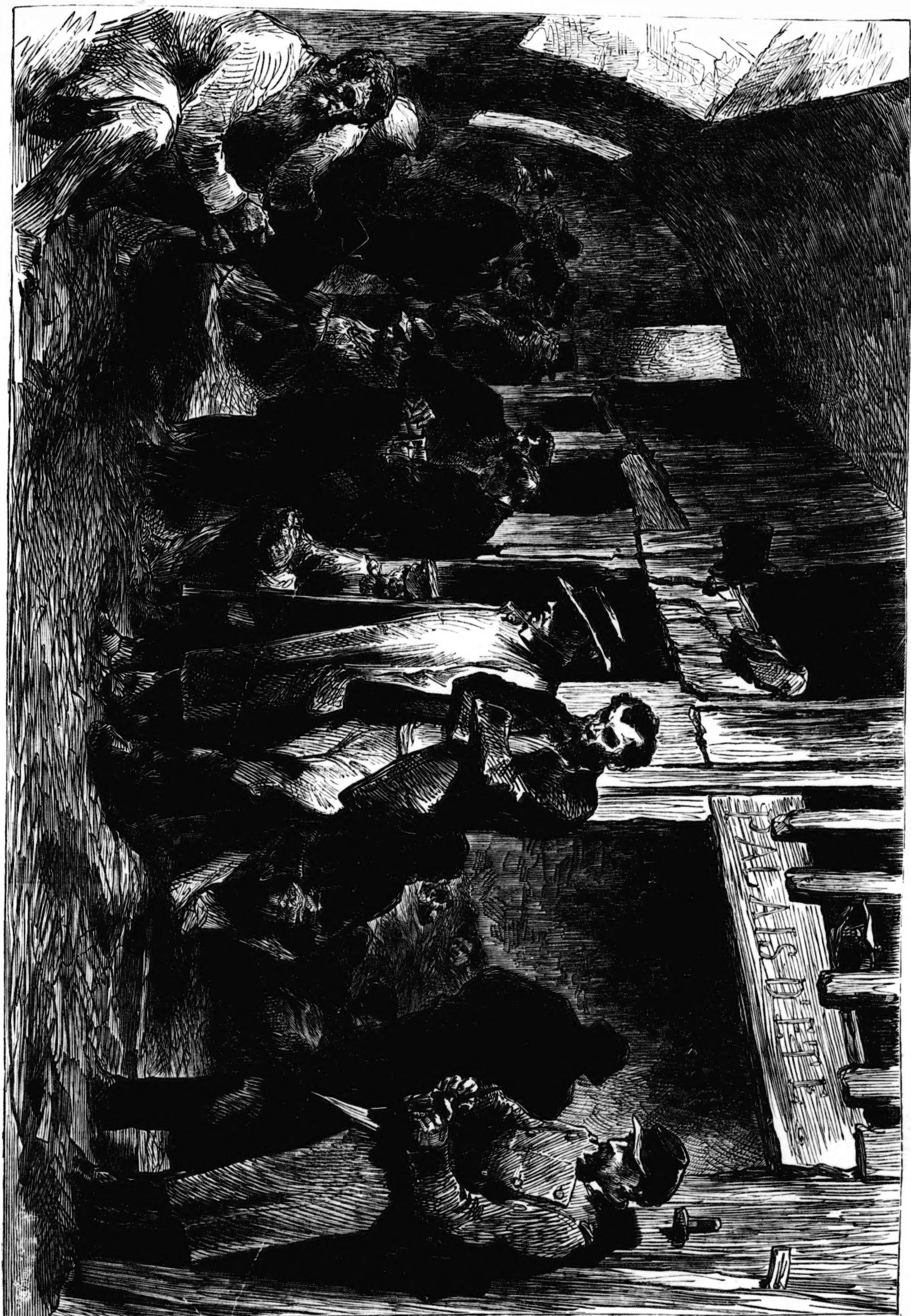
MR. BRIGHT AND THE HOME-RULE QUESTION.—The following letter has been addressed to The O'Donoghue by Mr. John Bright, M.P.:— "Rochdale, Jan. 29, 1872.—My dear O'Donoghue,—It is said that some persons engaged in the canvass of the county of Kerry have spoken of me as an advocate of what is termed 'Home-Rule' in Ireland. I hope no one has ventured to say anything so absurd and untrue. If it has been said by anyone of any authority in the country, I shall be glad if you will contradict it. To have two representative legislative assemblies or Parliaments in the United Kingdom would, in my opinion, be an intolerable mischief; and I think no sensible man can wish for two within the limits of the present United Kingdom who does not wish the United Kingdom to become two or more nations, entirely separated from each other. Excuse me for troubling you with this. It is no duty of mine to interfere in your contest; but I do not wish to be misrepresented."



SKETCHES IN BUENOS AYRES: FISHING IN THE RIVER LA PLATA.



LIFE IN BUENOS AYRES: CARRIERS ON THE HALT FOR DINNER.



COMMUNIST PRISONERS IN THE CELLARS OF THE GRAND STABLES AT VERSAILLES.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S MUSEUM.

The collection belonging to the Duke of Edinburgh, illustrative of his voyage round the world in the Galatea, which is now on view at South Kensington, consists of porcelain, bronzes, enamels, gold and silver work, lacquer, weapons, armour, carvings, and textile fabrics, from China, India, Japan, Australia, Tahiti, and the Sandwich Islands; the whole illustrated by water-colour drawings, by Messrs. O. W. Brierly and N. Chevalier, of the chief incidents by flood and field in which either the Galatea or her Captain took part. These drawings are good as works of art; but their chief interest, on the present occasion, at least, rests upon their personal character and upon the information they afford of the events of the cruise. In one we see the Galatea in a gale near the Strait of Bonifacio; in another she is struggling with a cyclone off the Island of St. Paul. In one the Duke of Edinburgh is on foot, firing point blank at an enraged and charging elephant, which did not drop until within seven yards of the shooting-party; in another he is attired in a Tahitian dress of honour, and, seated at the side of Queen Pomare, is receiving offerings from her dusky subjects. Of the two artists, Mr. Chevalier has the advantage of contributing more largely to the collection; and except, perhaps, for the cyclone, has had opportunities of depicting more stirring scenes. Many of Mr. Brierly's pictures, however, and especially some of his sky and wave studies in the Mediterranean, are full of artistic feeling. Among Mr. Chevalier's most telling efforts may be mentioned a series of illustrations of a day's tiger-hunting, "Tahiti Girls at Papiete," "Tahiti Girl Gathering Oranges," and "Native Female Riders at Hawaii;" but the collection embraces a great variety of subjects, and contains something that will appeal to every taste.

Passing away from the pictures, perhaps the most attractive feature of the exhibition will be articles brought from Japan. The bronzes are numerous and of great beauty. The most remarkable is a large incense-burner, presented by the Mikado. This is constructed in three stages, each with representations, in high relief or in detached pieces, of rockwork, with cascades, trees, flowers, and birds; in the middle stage is a man standing on the shore, deprecating or invoking a dragon; the whole on a wooden stand carved to represent waves. The waves are conventionally treated; but the plumage of the birds and some of the foliage is in the most exquisite imitation of nature. The work is said to be 300 years old, but its perfections are absolutely untouched by time. A good illustration of modern bronze is afforded by a pair of cisterns, but these are not comparable with the incense-burner in beauty of workmanship. The lacquer-work will be found very attractive; and here also the ancient specimens are, generally speaking, the best. A black and gold lacquered reading-desk, presented by the Mikado, is the finest example of old work; and a plateau or tazza representing a male figure swinging a bell, from which an armed man or demon is emerging, is the finest example of the new. There are very many smaller articles in the same material, such as trays, boxes, cab nets, sword and dagger sheaths, and the like; but one of the most interesting is a knife, with granulated ivory handle and aventurine lacquer sheath, said to have been designed by the Mikado himself, and certainly sent by him as a present after the Duke's departure. Japanese porcelain is represented by a pair of gigantic vases, and by many smaller articles, among which are a few of the elegant little cups and bowls for which the country is so renowned. The specimens of Japanese cloisonné enamel are only five in number. Four of these are covered cups or small bowls of cloisonné upon porcelain. The enamel appears to be of considerable antiquity, but there is nothing remarkable about it in point either of colour or workmanship. The fifth is a small square box, of the greatest delicacy and beauty; the pattern itself being of extreme fineness, the colours unusually brilliant, and a bright red, which we have not before met with in similar work, being introduced into some of the flowers of the design. Among the Japanese textile fabrics we may mention a curious screen, painted with a procession of grasshoppers, and a painted robe of dark blue crape, shading downwards to the margin of sedgy water, over which birds are hovering. There are a few examples of ivory and metal work, among which a girdle-clasp is the most remarkable; and there is a complete suit of the armour of a Japanese foot soldier, placed upon a lay figure. This armour is formed of plates of black lacquer, united by cotton links. The face is protected by a black lacquer mask, and the helmet, or hat, carries two knife-blades arranged as horns.

The objects from India and China are of a kind with which English sightseers have of late years been rendered very familiar. Kooftgari work, Lucknow water-bottles, and Indian weapons are known almost to everybody; but the specimens collected by the Duke are of the choicest description. Especial mention may be made of a scimitar in the Indian trophy C, presented by the Maharajah of Ulwar. The hilt is of ivory, jewelled, and mounted with massive gold tigers' heads, and the blade is channelled to receive seed pearls, which run loosely from hilt to point, and are seen through a series of slits too fine to allow of their escape. Some of the weapons have hilts of very fine enamel, and there is in one of the cases a cup and saucer of enamelled gold, presented by the Maharajah of Jeypore, which is said to be one of the finest specimens of this work in existence.

Not the least curious and interesting part of the collection has been contributed by countries in a state of comparative barbarism. There is a feather tippet of brilliant red and yellow, presented by the King of the Sandwich Islands. The yellow portion is obtained from a native bird, gifted with a tail containing two very small yellow feathers. The birds are not killed, but caught, stripped of their yellow feathers, and then economically released to grow more. The tippet exhibited contains the spoils of countless numbers of them, and would be highly valued in the islands. There is also a necklace of the same material, the gift of Queen Emma, and some feather fabrics of a coarser kind. Tahiti furnished a robe of honour made from the tissue of the plantain, and worn by the Duke on the occasion already mentioned as the subject of one of Mr. Chevalier's pictures.

New Zealand industry is chiefly represented by a collection of native weapons of various kinds, among which will be found one greenstone club, or "meer," of especial value, and said to have been the finest specimen in the country. It was the property of a native chief, who had refused to sell it for £300, but who brought it as a voluntary offering to the son of the Queen.

From Australia and Tasmania there are many objects of great interest, among which may be named some very good gold and silver work. Wherever his Royal Highness set foot he seems to have been called upon to lay the first stone of one or more buildings, and to receive one or more loyal addresses. Gold and silver trowels by dozens, and square yards of illuminated parchments, are now at South Kensington as evidences of his complaisance in these particulars.

It is announced that the exhibition will remain open about two months. The care of the Science and Art Department has provided a good and sufficient catalogue, and when we add that the numbers in this catalogue reach 784, it will be sufficiently manifest that we have only indicated a few of the more striking of the objects which the liberality of his Royal Highness has rendered accessible to all who may desire to see them.

NEW KNIGHT.—Alderman Sir Thomas Dakin, upon whom it has been announced that her Majesty has graciously signified her intention of conferring the honour of knighthood, in recognition of the effective discharge of his duties as Lord Mayor of London in the year which has just expired, is the third son of the late Mr. Jonathan Dakin, of Knutsford, Cheshire, where he was born in the year 1808. He was educated at the grammar school of his native town, and, coming to London, established himself as a wholesale chemist in the City. He formerly carried on business by himself in King William-street and also in Abchurch-lane, and subsequently in partnership with his brother in Creechurh-lane, Leadenhall-street. He was chosen successively a Common Councilman of London and afterwards an Alderman, representing the ward of Candlewick.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 1872.

THE DEMANDS OF THE DISSENTERS.

As an organ of public opinion, the ILLUSTRATED TIMES has nothing whatever to do with Dissenters as Dissenters, Episcopalian as Episcopalian, Catholics as Catholics, Jews as Jews, or Secularists as Secularists. Political discussion has not a word to say to these matters. Its concern is with human beings as citizens and members of the community. A man's rights in that relation are no more affected by his creed in theology than by his creed in art, science, or morals.

Now, let us suppose for a single moment that the Utilitarians, or the Intuitionists in ethics; or the pre-Raphaelites and post-Raphaelites in art; or the Darwinians and anti-Darwinians in science, were either of them to make an appeal to the State to "establish" their particular creed; to give it all the prestige of governmental support, and to take money out of the pockets of citizens of all creeds whatever in art, science, or morals for the purpose of teaching the principles of the favoured creed to young or old. Would not such a demand be treated with scornful laughter?

We will take one step more. Suppose the present generation found, as a matter of fact, that, owing to imperfect intelligence of the first principles of political freedom and the rights of citizenship, some special form of creed in art, science, or ethics had got lifted into a place of State favour, and was supported by funds to which all citizens alike, whatever their personal belief, contributed. Would it not be at once conceded that, whatever might be the best immediate policy in such a case, the state of facts was politically abnormal, and involved a gross robbery of a certain number of citizens?

Yet, when a certain number of British citizens, who happen to be called Dissenters (it would not alter the argument if they were called Laputans or Brobdignagians), protest that to make them pay school rates for denominational teaching is an injustice, and, in plain English, a robbery, they are accused of factiousness, disaffection to the Liberal party, and one knows not what political offences.

The case we have put is one that a child can understand. It is as plain as the daylight by which anyone may happen to read these lines that, if a certain number of citizens take out of the purses of a certain other number of citizens money to pay for teaching a religious creed of which the latter do not approve, they commit an act morally identical in kind with that which would be committed by a pre-Raphaelite who filched money from the pocket of Mr. Leighton or Mr. Frith, in order to help to pay for a course of lectures in art on pre-Raphaelite principles. Yet we find the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol declaring the other day that "the Nonconformists had avowed their resolution to contend no longer for toleration, nor even for equality, but for something very like supremacy." This is surely one of the most impudent things ever uttered in public controversy. We have, in the foregoing paragraphs, laid bare the fundamental fallacy of the position; and will only add that, if ever the Dissenters do demand anything like "supremacy," we hope and believe they will speedily be shown the door. But, in the meanwhile, what they now demand is that—as far as the application of tax-paid money goes—all citizens, without exception, should be placed upon the same footing in the matter of national education; in other words, that the State should help neither one religious body nor the other, as a religious body, but give to all an equal chance in other particulars. The real clamourers for "ascendancy" are the Denominationalists. The Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, apparently, never heard of the Wolf and the Lamb.

Bishop Ullathorne, at Birmingham, is reported to have said this:—"In the very newest programme of the League I find it set forth that compulsory school boards shall everywhere take possession of all schools." Now, if the League had set forth this, the League would speedily have the nation about its ears. The State has clearly no right to dictate the school to which a child shall be sent, or "take possession of all schools." Nor do we read its programme as Bishop Ullathorne does:—"2. No schools to be recognised as public elementary schools but those under the control of elected school boards. 3. Existing school buildings to be placed by consent under the control of such boards for use during the hours of secular instruction, to be given under the direction of school boards. The buildings to be retained for all other purposes by the denominations with which they are connected. 4. Any school in respect to which such control is declined, to be excluded from participation in the annual Government grant." We take it that the words "public elementary school" are to be read with strict reference to the definition in the Act, and that the League simply means that Government grants shall be absolutely confined to such schools—

i.e., to schools in the control of which all citizens have an equal voice. And if our Catholic fellow-citizens cannot see the perfect fairness of that, so much the worse for them. We repeat, as we have repeated many times before, that the citizen who takes money out of another citizen's purse for the teaching of a creed which the muleted citizen disbelieves, is a pickpocket; and those who cannot learn this very simple lesson in morals out of their own heads will have to learn it, whether in England or in Ireland, by a process analogous to that which excludes burglars from the company of honest people.

One of the most amazing arguments we have yet seen upon these questions is that of a Dr. Morton Brown, who actually indites the following paragraph of appeal to the Nonconformist party:—"The remembrance of what has been done for civil and religious freedom and equality by the Liberal party ought to make Nonconformists pause before they 'revolt' from it. Through whose exertions were the Test and Corporation Acts repealed? The Liberal party. Through whose influence was Catholic Emancipation carried? If, instrumentally, the Liberal party did not carry it, still it was through their pertinacity and influence it was obtained. Who carried the Marriage Act, giving liberty to Dissenters to marry in their own places of worship? By whom was the Reform Bill of 1832 passed—the Magna Charta of all our modern Liberal measures? By whose perseverance and eloquence, if not by Henry Brougham and Fowell Buxton—backed by the great Liberal party—was West India Negro Emancipation effected? Who abolished church rates? And, not to attempt an enumeration of a tithe of what the Liberal party has done for 'civil and religious liberty,' who disestablished the Irish Church? Not the Dissenters by themselves, but the great Liberal party, commencing the noble Reformation work of modern times, which, when completed, will do away with Dissent, as such, and afford for all denominations of Christians, in fulfilling their mission, 'a fair field and no favour.'"

We could scarcely believe our eyes as we read this. It would be a fair parallel to say:—"Let not the strong horse 'revolt' from the cart because his food is cut down wrongfully. Who carried the beans? The cart. Who carried the oats? The cart. Who carried the succulent green meat? The cart. Then let not—oh! let not—the ungrateful steed 'revolt!'"

Oddly enough—if anything can be reckoned odd after such strokes of lunacy—Mr. Henry Richard, M.P., was saying the exact reverse of all this at Manchester on the very same day. Dr. Brown put the cart before the horse, but Mr. Richard knew better. Speaking of the intention of the Nonconformists to try a fall with Mr. Forster, Mr. Richard said:—"They had wrestled and thrown stronger men. Lord Russell, a more experienced statesman than Mr. Forster, once said on church rates, 'I know the Dissenters; they carried the Reform Bill, they carried the abolition of slavery, they carried free trade, and they would carry this question;' and he (Mr. Richard) would dare to add that, if they were earnest and united, they would carry the abolition or serious amendment of this Education Act."

We hope the Cabinet will be warned by words like these. It is purely as citizens and Englishmen anxious for equal justice that we write these words. Similar words, indeed, this journal has written more than once during the past four or five years. And a reference to our files for 1870 and last year will show that, while too many of its contemporaries shirked the question, the ILLUSTRATED TIMES spoke out week after week and month after month, and insisted that the temporising policy of Mr. Forster would endanger not only the Government but the integrity of the Liberal party. We do not grudge our contemporaries any help or stimulation they can get out of these columns, for we write in order to be read, and give and take is the law of social life; but we should have been more pleased to have them marching abreast of us all the way in this matter than to find them, after a lazy and equivocal bivouac, scampering in discreditable and transparent haste to catch up with us.

THE JEWS AND CHRISTIANITY.—The Jewish society which has been formed at Birmingham to resist attempts at proselytising their nation to Christianity has begun its operations. A sermon, which Jews had been specially invited to hear, was preached at St. Asaph's Church, on Sunday afternoon, and, shortly before the service began, seventy or eighty Jews marched into the church, according to their custom in their own synagogues, with their hats on, which they retained during the service. The Birmingham Post says they listened to the sermon with great attention, and at its close the preacher was challenged by the president of the new society to a public discussion. It is understood that the challenge was accepted.

NEW KNIGHT OF ST. PATRICK.—Robert Shapland Carew, Lord Carew, on whom has been conferred the ribbon of the order of St. Patrick, vacant by the death of Lord Dunraven, is the eldest son of Robert, first Lord (who was also a K.P.), by a daughter of the late Major Anthony Cliffe, of Ross. He was born in the year 1818, and was educated at Eton, and also at Christ Church, Oxford, and sat in the Liberal interest as M.P. for the county of Waterford from 1840 to 1847. His Lordship, who succeeded to the Irish and English titles of his father in 1856, is Lord Lieutenant of the county of Wexford, a magistrate of the county of Waterford (of which he was High Sheriff), and Colonel of the Wexford Militia. His Lordship married, in 1844, Emily Anne, second daughter of Sir George Richard Philips, by whom he has two sons.

THE NEW YORK CUSTOM-HOUSE.—Next to the Fisk murder, the scandalous revelations made before the Senate Investigating Committee in New York during the last four days have attracted great attention. Evidence of an astounding character has come to light, showing circumstantially how corrupt are the highest officers of the American Government, or rather, if not corrupt themselves, how careless they are in bestowing favours upon their friends, which revert back to their own disgrace. It has been proved, for instance, how, through the mere influence of President Grant, a young man named Colonel Leet, once upon his staff, succeeded in obtaining control of the Custom-house warehouse business in that city, and also in clearing thereby a profit of 100,000 dollars per annum. Circumstantial evidence shows that the President's private secretaries, Generals Porter and Babcock, have a share in this business. This is the committee whose appointment several senators persistently resisted, but were finally compelled to appoint, as they had to yield to the new public clamour for reform. The Custom-house in New York is the most rotten of all Federal institutions, and if the searching inquiries are not stopped by authority from Washington, still more astounding revelations will set the light. Merchants are now daily giving testimony showing how they are compelled to bribe Custom-house officers to get their goods; how they are black-mailed; and how, finally, they are approached with offers of compromise by men whose sworn duty is to execute the laws of the land regardless of fear or favour.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN has sent twenty brace of pheasants for the patients in Charing-cross Hospital.

THE QUEEN OF GREECE gave birth to a son on Monday.

HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR OF GERMANY has presented to the British Library at Oxford a copy of "Œuvres de Frédéric," tom. xvi., xxiii., 4to, Berlin. Imprimerie Royale. 1850-3."

THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA lately escaped from great danger by his own sang-froid and presence of mind. His Majesty was attacked by a bear, during a bear-hunt, and his life was in great peril until he succeeded in shooting the dangerous animal.

THE KING OF HOLLAND has approved the three treaties with England concerning the coast of Guinea, Sumatra, and immigration into Surinam.

THE COUNTESS OF GRANARD died, on Monday afternoon, at Johnstown Castle, near Wexford.

LORD GRANVILLE was, on Tuesday, waited upon by a deputation of the Anti-Slave-Trade Society, whose members asked the noble Earl to use his influence with the Spanish Government in favour of the abolition of slavery both at Porto Rico and Cuba.

MR. C. P. VILLIERS, M.P., who was to have addressed his constituents at Wolverhampton on Monday evening, was prevented from doing so through indisposition.

EARL COWPER, who holds extensive estates in Nottinghamshire, has just addressed a letter to his tenants residing in that county saying that they are at perfect liberty to vote for any candidate they may choose at the forthcoming election for North Notts.

SIR W. JENNER, Bart., M.D., has received the distinction of K.C.B.; and Dr. William Gull has been created a Baronet.

MR. DISRAELI will visit Lancashire in Easter week. The right hon. gentleman has informed the reception committee that he will speak at Manchester, Liverpool, and Preston, as representing severally South, West, and North Lancashire.

MR. JOHN HENRY BARTON, Clerk of the Peace for the county of Suffolk, was found dead in his bed, on Sunday, at his residence, Bury St. Edmunds.

THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS has resolved to negotiate with the Government for the acquisition of the land in the neighbourhood of Victoria Park offered for sale by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, at a sum not exceeding £24,500.

AT A PRELIMINARY MEETING, held on Tuesday evening at the chambers of Sir Antonio Brady, it was resolved to begin a movement for establishing a university for the spread of technical education amongst the industrial classes.

THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY SERVANTS have agreed to the concessions recently made by the directors, and have passed a resolution of thanks to the board.

A DUTCH SAILOR belonging to a Rotterdam steamer was, on Tuesday, convicted at the Mansion House of smuggling. He was fined £100, with the alternative of six months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE have passed a resolution expressing their opinion that "a moderate and equitable system of tenant-right" should be established in this country.

MR. J. E. MILLAIS, R.A., has been commissioned to paint a portrait of Sir James Paget, and attended a clinical lecture given by the eminent surgeon at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, a few days ago, in order to study the expression of the Baronet when speaking in public, Sir James being considered one of the most eloquent lecturers in London. The portrait will be placed in the great hall of the hospital.

MR. HENRY RANCE, who has been in the service of the National Provident Institution upwards of thirty years, has been appointed secretary, in the room of Mr. Samuel Smiles, who has retired in consequence of severe indisposition.

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MADRID have invited a competition among the artists of Spain to decorate the Plaza de la Independencia with six or eight statues of the heroes of the War of Independence.

AT THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICIA, Edinburgh, on Monday, a man named Alexander Whitecross, residing in Edinburgh, was found guilty of culpable homicide by stabbing his son with a knife, and he was sentenced to fifteen years' penal servitude.

MR. GLADSTONE'S SECRETARY, in acknowledging the receipt of a memorial from a number of Protestant Dissenters, praying that the Government would not support any proposal for the establishment of a Roman Catholic University in Ireland, states that the rumoured endowment of such an institution is without foundation.

SIR EDWIN LANDSEER has been appointed by the Emperor of Germany a Foreign Knight of the Order of Merit; together with Mr. Robinson, the director of the Armagh Observatory.

MR. BRIDGE, the newly-appointed magistrate at the Hammersmith and Wandsworth Police-Courts, took his seat for the first time on Wednesday.

A GREENWICH MUSIC-HALL PROPRIETOR was, on Wednesday, prosecuted by the London Theatrical Managers' Association for having permitted stage-plays to be performed without a license. A penalty of £10 was inflicted.

THE REV. JAMES KELLY, of Liverpool, again appealed to the full Court of Divorce, on Wednesday, for a rehearing of his case, on the ground that the decision previously arrived at was erroneous, and that the facts which he adduced had been misapprehended. The Court, however, declined to hear him.

THE ANNUAL EDITIONS of those useful publications, Debrett's "Peerage" and "Baronetage,"—works well and favourably known before George III. was King—will be issued in the course of a few days.

A MEETING OF NAVAL OFFICERS, held on board H.M.S. Excellent, at Portsmouth, has resolved to establish an association to promote the scientific culture of the junior branches of the Navy.

THE REV. J. S. WATSON has been respited, with a view to commutation of the capital sentence to penal servitude for life. This course has been taken on the recommendation, concurred in by the Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench, of the learned Judge before whom the prisoner was tried.

THE TREASURY RECEIPTS from April 1 to the 20th inst. amounted to £52,815,480, an increase of more than £2,700,000 upon the amount in the corresponding period of last year. The expenditure has been £59,361,531. The balance in the Bank of England on Saturday last was £973,880.

FATHER HYACINTHE has been in Rome for the last few days, and the *Diritto* says that he intends to bring out a periodical there to be called the *Esperance*. It is to be an organ of the Old Catholics of Bavaria, of whom Father Hyacinthe is an ardent partisan. The *Esperance* will be in French.

MR. JAMES HOWARD, M.P., has consented to preside at the nineteenth anniversary festival of the London Association of Foremen Engineers and Draughtsmen, to be held at the City Terminus Hotel, on Saturday, Feb. 17, and Vice-Adm. Sir Spencer Robinson, K.C.B., Professor Tyndall, F.R.S., Sir Francis P. Smith, and other eminent scientific gentlemen will take part in the proceedings.

THE NEW KNIGHTS of the Prussian Order of the Black Eagle who received investiture at the Chapter held at Berlin on the 18th were Prince Arthur, Prince Louis of Hesse, Prince William of Wirtemberg, ex-Minister von der Heydt, Chief President of the Superior Tribunal von Uden, Count Bernstorff, and General Vogel von Falckenstein and von Manteuffel.

A LICENSED VICTUALLER, carrying on business in Clapham, was fined, at the Wandsworth Police Court, on Tuesday, in the mitigated penalty of £5, for hawking beer in the streets and selling it to persons who had not previously ordered it.

A MEETING OF VOLUNTEER COMMANDING OFFICERS was held, last Saturday, at the rooms of the National Rifle Association, when resolutions were passed recognising the value of the Easter Monday dressings; and, by large majority, Brighton was selected as the place for this year's gathering.

JAMES PETTENGALL, aged thirty-two, who is in custody charged with having caused the death of his wife by pushing her under a brewer's dray on London Bridge, was brought up again before the Lord Mayor on Monday. Corroborative evidence was given, and the prisoner was committed for trial on the charge of manslaughter.

THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW AND BANQUET are expensive affairs. According to the *City Press*, the cost of the dinner and wines was £112; the decorations, £825 4s. 1d.; the procession, £273 19s. 10d.; music in Guildhall, £83 2s.; printing and stationery, £166 16s. 6d.; general expenses (the items of which are specified), £206 12s. 3d.; total, £2627 15s. 6d. Of this the Lord Mayor paid £1213 17s. 10d.; the Sheriffs, each £60 6s. 10d.; and the City Lands Committee, £200.

A FATAL GAS EXPLOSION took place, a few days ago, at the residence of a gentleman at West-hill, Wandsworth. A strong smell of gas being perceived in one of the rooms, the gardener (George Johnson, aged forty-four) took a lighted candle to discover the place of leakage. On mounting the table, to examine a large chandelier, the application produced a terrific explosion, which blew the chandelier to atoms, damaged all the furniture in the room, mortally injured Johnson, and severely hurt the housemaid.

THE LOUNGER.

HERR VON MÜHLER has been dismissed, or had to resign. It is probable that not one in ten of my readers—possibly not one in ten of the British people—ever heard of Herr von Mühler. Let me tell them who he was, what he had to do, and why he had to resign his office. Herr von Mühler was the Minister of Church and Education affairs in Prussia, having a despotic, or nearly despotic, control over all the schools; and he was a man with a fixed idea—to wit, that the primary thing to be taught in the schools was religion, which there, as here, means not really religion but theology, which I have more than once shown is a very different thing. And, so rigorously and despotsically did he carry out this idea that at last, as we have it on record, "instruction in natural science, history, and geography was reduced to a minimum in elementary schools. Indeed, practically, the children learnt little but reading, writing, cyphering, and very many texts and hymns, and much catechism." In one district, named the Gumbinnen district, combining Lithuania and Königsburg, the children were made to devote nearly four times the number of hours to religious matter as they were to reading and writing." Nor was this rigorous rule confined to elementary schools. It was carried out in "the seminaries" in which teachers are trained.

"Formerly the pupils of these seminaries received a tolerably liberal education; but, rightly judging that no particular culture is wanted to render a man a mere teacher of the alphabet and a writer of texts, Herr von Mühler had the training of the schoolmaster ground down to a pattern on a par with the low requirements of his future calling." Under the Minister of Instruction's rule, "Seminarists were permitted to learn but little of natural science, geography, history, poetry, and logic; but their time was principally taken up in repeating by rote an overpowering number of those hymns, texts, and biblical extracts, to hammer which into the children's heads was to be the chief occupation of their lives." Such were the teachers and such the schools under the rule of Herr von Mühler; and one can fancy the profound dissatisfaction and the irritation which this state of affairs, so utterly opposed to the spirit of the age in Germany, caused. But the despotism could not be overthrown, for the King steadfastly supported his Minister. But since the great war a change has come over him. Most likely Bismarck has whispered in his ear, "It is not safe, your Majesty, to irritate and annoy your faithful subjects in this way." However this may be, Mühler is dethroned, and the system is to be changed, to the great joy of the German Protestants; but not to the Catholic priests, for they were obliged to make religious teaching in their schools their main object, and this, of course, was quite to their mind. Here, then, we have another blow dealt at ecclesiastical domination over national education. It is right that I should give the source of my information on the subject of education in Germany. My readers will, perhaps, remember that a few years ago there appeared in the *Times* a series of letters upon the subject, written by that paper's correspondent at Berlin. These letters the accomplished author, in 1870, collected and published in a volume entitled "Religious Thought in Germany." It is a very valuable book; and if my readers wish to understand religious thought in Germany, let them do as I have done—read this volume.

How refreshing it is to see the great work of liberating education from priestly domination going on successfully on the European Continent! In almost every European country priestly tyranny over education has fallen, or is tottering to its fall. There is, though, one exception—little or nothing has been done in this direction in Russia. The Emperor, it is said, would gladly follow the example of his Western neighbours, but the priesthood are too powerful, because the people are ignorant. They are no longer serfs, no longer slaves to the nobles, but they are still abject and willing slaves to the priests.

By-the-way, I wonder whether Mr. Forster saw the article in the *Times* which announced the fall of Mühler. If he did, it must have given him a twinge. True, Mr. Forster is not a Mühler. The German ex-Minister is a conscientious fanatic. Mr. Forster is no fanatic, nor does he pretend that he conscientiously believes in denominational education. All he says is that he could not have carried his bill if he had not thrown a sop to the clerical Cerberus. But the principle which is agitating England is the same as that which agitated Germany: Shall the education of the people be in the hands of the priests? No! said Germany, with emphasis; and the agitation here will spread; and here, as in Germany, the people, when they come to understand the question, will reply with the same emphasis, and it is clear to my mind that Mr. Forster must give way—or fall.

It seems to me a curious thing that the Liberal electors of the Wick district should take so passionately to Mr. John Pender. Do they know his political history? Perhaps not. It is a long way from London to Wick—over 600 miles, I reckon; and probably few of our bluebooks ever get there, but possibly the *ILLUSTRATED TIMES* may find its way. It goes a very long way from home I know, and so I will sketch Mr. Pender's history—not his private history; with that I have nothing to do. Mr. Pender first entered the House of Commons, in 1862, as member for Totnes. Mr. Thomas Mills, one of the members, died in December of that year, and Mr. Pender was elected without opposition; and great was his joy. Of late years he had got enormously rich—literally a millionaire, men say—and now he was John Pender, Esq., M.P. In 1865 there was a general election, and again Mr. Pender was in the field. This time, though, he and Mr. Alfred Seymour were opposed by two Tories. But the Fates were propitious again; or appeared to be; for both the Liberals were returned, and Mr. John Pender was at the head of the poll. And once more, in a high state of elation, he resumed the M.P., and walked proudly into the House. But, alas! before he had long been there a cloud came over his prospects, and his joy was somewhat damped. The election was in July, and no petitions against returns were presented that Session; but there were strong rumours, apparently authentic, that a petition would be presented against the return of the members for Totnes; and Mr. Pender, knowing what had been done at the election, must have had during the vacation, one would say, an "irritating worm in the flesh" to disturb his holiday recreation. In 1866 the House met on Feb. 1; on the 9th the dreaded petition appeared; on March 16 the Committee was reported and sworn; and on the 22nd Mr. Bouverie, the chairman, reported at the bar of the House "That John Pender, Esq., is not duly elected a Burgess, &c., and that Alfred Seymour is duly elected, &c.;" and further, it was reported—1, "That John Pender, Esq., was guilty of bribery at the last election; 2, That it was proved to the Committee that an offer of a place of employment was made by the said John Pender, Esq., to R. Harris; 3, That a system of gross corruption prevailed at the last election for Totnes; 4, That there is reason to believe that corrupt practices have extensively prevailed in the said borough." Here, then, ended Mr. Pender's Parliamentary career. In 1867 the Parliamentary history of Totnes closed; for, in consequence of the report of a Royal Commission, Totnes was by an Act of Parliament disfranchised.

Both the members for Brighton are advanced Liberals; both agree upon the question, What ought to be the policy of the Government?—as a rule, when a division takes place, both walk through the same lobby; and yet there was a marked difference of tone in their speeches last week. Mr. Fawcett's speech was inspired by bitter disappointment with the Government and in-appeasable anger against it. He gave the Government little credit for what it has done. He expressed no confidence, but rather hinted want of confidence, in it. He was all but silent on its good deeds. He catalogued minutely and seemed to expatiate with relish upon its failures, and made no allowance for the difficulties which must beset the leaders of a party so composite as the Liberal party is. Mr. White is as advanced a politician as Mr. Fawcett and as independent a member, for he, too, very often opposes the Government; but the tone of his speech was very different to that of his colleague. He criticised the Government

measures, some of them severely; but he was not indiscriminate in his censures. Moreover, he made large allowance for the difficulties with which the Gladstone Government is surrounded; but here he shall speak for himself:

I must be forgiven for taking this opportunity of expressing my regret at the disengagement to which Mr. Gladstone's Government has, in my opinion, been unduly subjected by some of our Liberal friends. That there have been many shortcomings and grievous bunglings no one can deny; but surely some allowances ought to be made for the exigencies of office, in their position as Ministers, who are bound to consider the feelings and wishes of the Liberal party in its entirety. How many members who sit behind them, and who profess to call themselves Liberals and support a Liberal Government, yet have far more tendencies towards, and affinities with, the Conservative party than with us advanced Liberals who sit below the gangway? Therefore it is, I think, too much to expect that every measure of the Government should be framed in exact conformity with our own political programme. If Mr. Gladstone's or any other Government is to move on faster, it will be when the constituencies return men who will actively aid, not openly or secretly thwart, measures of progress, as now happens too often on our side of the House.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

For many years past the theatres have not been able to show such satisfactory balances as during the few weeks just elapsed. Everything appears to be doing well, the most successful houses being in the Strand neighbourhood. The Vaudeville, for instance, has found a tramp-card in "London Assurance," for which the public is booking many nights ahead; and the old comedy promises to run until our early Easter, if not longer. The Lyceum performance in "The Bells;" and a chance playgoer will certainly not find a seat at the Gaiety or Globe. Thespis can, after all, boast the success which was predicted, and there is no need for Mr. Montague to look for a new comedy. The Prince of Wales is making more money with the Robertsonian revivals than with the original plays; and as to "Caste," there is no probability of its being withdrawn this season—much as everyone looks forward to the long-promised "Man and Wife" of Mr. Wilkie Collins. The Court and the Strand are not behindhand in popularity; while the only doubtful successes are at the Princess's and the Adelphi. As to the pantomimes, they have never before done so well; and, according to all accounts, both Mr. Chatterton and Mr. Augustus Harris have made fortunes already, though the expense of mounting the Covent Garden pantomime must have been enormous. The dresses are, however, sold to Russia. The secret of all this success is, no doubt, the intrinsic merit of the play; but it must also be remembered that we have had no frost or snow—nothing to stop the traffic—but have hitherto enjoyed a mild, though extremely wet, winter.

Last Saturday afternoon was produced at the GAIETY a light and pretty German comic opera, founded on the classical fable of Pygmalion and Galatea. The music is extremely taking and pretty, but the plot is far more French than German. The principal singers are Miss Constance Looeby and Mr. F. Wood (the owner of a most musical tenor voice), and the fun falls to Miss E. Farren and Mr. F. Sullivan. The opera will be appreciated for the music rather than the fun; but I do not doubt that many will go to see the operetta this (Saturday) afternoon. A kissing duet will be popular very shortly, and sung all over London.

FLYING SQUIRRELS.

In continuation of our sketches from natural history, we this week publish a very careful Engraving from a picture of a group of flying squirrels in the Natural History Collection at Berlin. Most of us are familiar with the English branch of the Sciuridae, which is in itself a family of the Rodentia. There are, however, several varieties, differing both in conformation and in colour, according to the locality in which they are found. Indeed, some naturalists class animals like the American marmot among the "ground squirrels" which burrow in woody districts in small hillocks or near the roots of trees, but never makes its nest in the trunks or branches of trees, like the common squirrel, although, when frightened from its hole, it climbs with ease, speedily making its way from branch to branch. The nest is reached by a winding tunnel, and there are usually two or three lateral chambers, for the stowage of winter food. The wide geographical distribution of the squirrels, and their remarkable variety, renders a study of their habits and peculiarities very interesting. "This animal (says Pennant) is remarkably neat, lively, active, and provident; never leaves its food to chance, but secures, in some hollow tree, a vast magazine of nuts for winter provision. In summer it feeds on the buds and young shoots, and is particularly fond of those of the fir and pine, and also of the young cones."

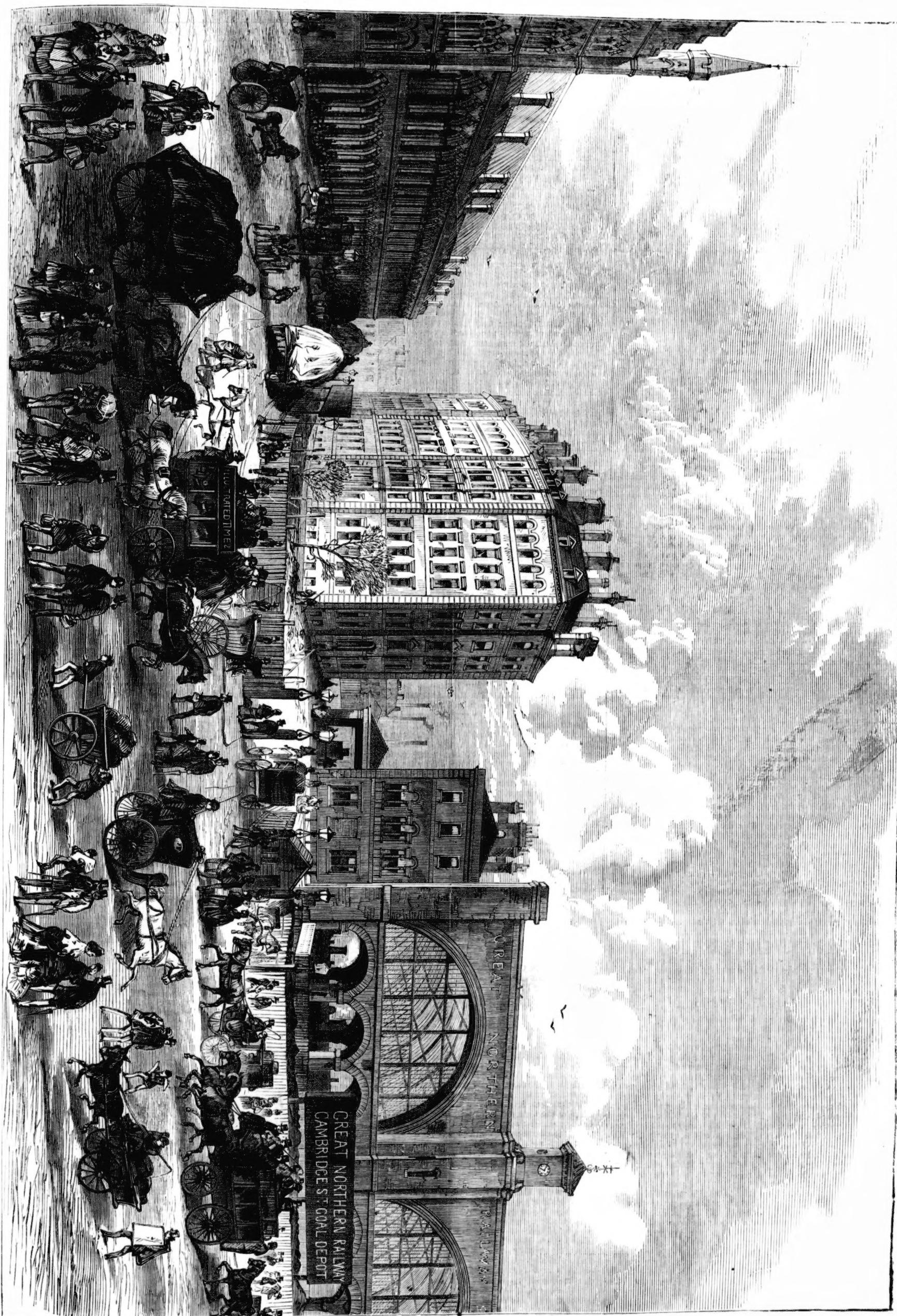
The agility of these little creatures is surprising, and it is very difficult to shoot a squirrel in motion. They have been known, when the distance to the next tree has been beyond their most extravagant leaps, to throw themselves off, spreading abroad their limbs, so as to make themselves as parachute-like as possible, to break their fall, and, on reaching the ground without harm, bound along for the few intervening paces, and ascend the next tree with a celerity almost too quick for the eye to follow. This ability to leap from a great height is greater in the flying squirrel, which may be found in Finland, Lapland, and the territory from Livonia to the river Kolyma, in the north-east of Siberia. This species haunts the woody mountainous country, feeding on the buds and fruit of the birch-trees and on the cones of the fir tribe. It is a solitary animal, and does not affect the company of others of its own kind, nor does it retire in the winter, at which season it wanders about. Its dwelling is in the hollows of trees and its nest is generally made from birch moss. It appears that the flying squirrel is a nocturnal animal, in which it differs essentially from its arboreal brother. There are six species of pteromys found in India and three in America, besides the European sorts. They are principally distinguished from the common squirrels by what is usually termed their flying membrane. This apparatus consists of a folding of the skin along each side, so as to form broad lateral expansions, supported anteriorly and posteriorly by the limbs between which they are extended, and by peculiar bony processes arising from the feet. The expansions are not naked and membranous, like those of bats, but are actual continuations of the skin, clothed externally by a dense fur similar to that which invests every other part of the body. Neither do they serve, like the flying membranes of many of the bats, the purposes of wings, their function being limited to that of a parachute, giving the animal a considerable degree of buoyancy, and thus enabling it to take leaps of great extent and velocity.

THE CALEDONIAN AND NORTH BRITISH RAILWAYS.—Some time ago it was announced that the proposed amalgamation of the Caledonian and North British Railways had been, by the mutual consent of the companies, postponed until next Session. This arrangement was consequent upon difficulties which had arisen in framing the clauses of the bill necessary to carry the amalgamation into effect. These difficulties have not, as it was hoped and expected, yielded to negotiation, and have been found insuperable. All idea of proceeding with the amalgamation, or with the extensive working agreement which was to have been its substitute failing Parliamentary sanction, has, therefore, been abandoned.

UPROARIOUS PERMISSIVE-BILL MEETING.—BISHOP TEMPLE ASSAULTED.—A meeting was held at Exeter, on Tuesday evening, in support of the



FLYING SQUIRRELS.



THE NEW SQUARE OR PLACE BETWEEN THE GREAT NORTHERN AND MIDLAND RAILWAY TERMINI, KING'S CROSS

RECENT ALTERATIONS AT KING'S-CROSS.

KING's-Cross, or Battle Bridge (or, as some learned antiquarian pundits will have it called, Boadicea's Bridge), has long been an important, though far from elegant, part of the British metropolis. It is the converging point of several leading thoroughfares—York-road on the north, Pentonville-road on the east, Gray's-inn-road on the south, and Euston-road on the west; it has been a central halting-place of important lines of omnibuses almost ever since those vehicles made their advent in London; then it became the terminus of the Great Northern Railway; more recently, a chief station on the Metropolitan or Underground line; and, most recently of all, the magnificent terminus of the Midland Railway was erected in its immediate vicinity. This last event has worked an immense change upon King's-cross—so immense that persons familiar with the place as it was a few years ago would scarcely know it now. The work of change, and in this case decidedly of improvement, was begun by the clearances made for the station of the Metropolitan Railway, to make way for which the White Hart Tavern (well known for the collection of objects of natural history which ornamented its bar, and at one time famous for certain giants who officiated as bartenders), together with a number of other tenements, were pulled down. That effected a considerable opening in front of the Great Northern terminus, and greatly widened the space at King's-cross. But the greatest change of all has resulted from the erection of the Midland terminus. The directors of that company have a taste—which the management of the Great Northern Company, by-the-by, evidently have not—and so it was determined not only to build a magnificent terminal structure, with handsome offices, hotel, &c., but to open up the end of Old St. Pancras-road, so as not only to give a side view of the Midland edifice, but also to throw out into prominence the front of the Great Northern terminus and the adjacent Great Northern hotel. For this purpose the houses on the north side of the eastern end of Euston-road (formerly known as the New-road) were completely demolished. Part of the site thus cleared is occupied with the Midland terminus, but part has likewise been devoted to the formation of a large open space—or Place, as it would be called on the Continent—which gives a fine entry to Somers Town in lieu of what was once the crooked and unsavoury Old St. Pancras-road, as well as affording better access to the Great Northern Railway and Hotel, which would really have shown out exceedingly well—especially the Great Northern terminus—in the view either from the end of Gray's-inn-road or from, say, Chesterfield-street, on the opposite side of Euston-road, but for an unsightly hoarding which still incloses a portion of the cleared space towards the Metropolitan station and right in front of the Great Northern terminus. We do not know to whom this inclosed space belongs, or to what purpose it is to be devoted; but we think the Great Northern Company would act wisely by obtaining possession of the ground and clearing it of all obstructions. The directors would thus obtain a splendid approach to their terminus, and at the same time permit that edifice to be seen to the best advantage, which, by reason of the dingy hoardings that have hitherto obscured it, and do so still, it has never been. Esthetics, however, do not seem to come within the range of study to which the Great Northern directors devote their leisure moments, whereas the erection of hoardings decidedly does. Hence the line of boards that has long inclosed the front of their terminus; and hence, too, we suppose, the wooden inclosure which still obstructs the view thereof. Notwithstanding this obstructive inclosure, however, vast improvements have recently been effected at King's-cross, which, as will be seen from our Engraving, might easily be made, and probably will ere long become, one of the most imposing spots in London.

BISHOP ELICOTT ON ECCLESIASTICAL POLITICS.

THE Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol has just issued an address to the clergy and laity of his diocese on the work done during the past year, with some remarks on present Church questions. His Lordship states that extreme misapprehension exists as to the actual number or magnitude of the questions which it has been announced by the Archbishops will be brought before Convocation and Parliament. The first and most exciting question, he says, will undoubtedly be the proposals in reference to the services of the Church, and the suggested alterations in the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer. With reference to the former, he thinks there will be hardly any difference of opinion; and of the latter, that only three or four questions are likely to cause any excitement. These, his Lordship says, are a few alterations in the rubrics of the Communion Service (the prohibition of wafer bread, and the question of administering singly or to numbers); a few changes in the Baptismal Service, a proposal for an alternative Burial Service, and a solution of the Athanasian Creed question. This last point, he says, is the only one about which any anxiety need be entertained; but he ventures to forecast that the Athanasian Creed will undoubtedly be retained in the public services of the Church; and that the maximum of change that can possibly happen is the removal or modification of the damnatory clauses, and, perhaps, a return to the rubric as found in the earlier editions of the Prayer-Book. But he adds that even these changes are not likely to be proposed by Convocation; and asks if it is likely that sober statesmen will allow them to be introduced in an unwilling Church. Of the Clergy Discipline Bill, his Lordship says that, though he is favourable to the measure, there are three points requiring very serious consideration. These are—the permission given to any three persons in the diocese to be legal complainants; the suspension of the discretionary power of the Bishop in reference to complaints connected with ritual; and the practical abolition of the Chancellors' Courts. As to the fate of the bill, he says it is not very easy to make a prediction. That it will be opposed in the House of Lords, openly and covertly, he has no doubt; but he thinks it will pass that House, with some modifications. As to its success in the House of Commons, he thinks its friends cannot feel very sanguine, as two strong arguments will be used—one on each side: on the one hand, that they had now absolutely no discipline at all; on the other hand, that, if introduced in that particular way, there would be great danger of that secession to which Lord Derby had recently alluded in such very monitory terms. A measure more important than this, his Lordship says he is informed, will be introduced into the House of Commons—"The Facilities for Divine Worship Bill." As to this he warns the clergy that, although they successfully resisted the principle of the measure in the Private Chapels Bill of last year, the minority contained so many influential names that, unless they express their objections to the bill clearly and publicly, it will become law this Session. As to parochial councils, he says the subject must not be allowed to sleep, but it does not seem likely at present to be pressed forward either in Parliament or Convocation. As to the subject of cathedral reform, his Lordship says much good may now be done by a fair and free discussion of the question, "How the cathedral may be brought more fully into practical connection with the diocese, and how the members of the Chapter may best find a field of labour beyond the bounds of the cathedral city." The last subject to which his Lordship refers is that of Church defence. He regrets that there should be a necessity for such action on the part of Churchmen and the humiliation of being forced to advocate such associations for defensive purposes, but says it has now become a bitter necessity. As long as those who did not belong to their communion sought simply to obtain those rights which had been denied to them by one-sided legislation, as long as they satisfied themselves with simply protecting their own interests and freeing themselves from all legal disabilities, the Church, in her aspect of union with the State, most properly avoided all such corporate action as that which was now forced upon them. But now, when, as had been justly observed by the Archbishop, systematic organisations were formed for the express purpose of destroying a union which they honestly believed to be a blessing both to the Church and nation—when it was publicly announced by temperate speakers that Nonconformity had entered upon the second stage of its existence, and was morally bound to

press forward its principles and to become deliberately aggressive and conscientiously hostile—to remain passive under such circumstances was simply to betray a great principle, and to show themselves too apathetic or too timid to defend what ought to be defended to the very last.

NONCONFORMIST CONFERENCE AT MANCHESTER.

The great conference of Nonconformists on political questions was opened, at Manchester, on Wednesday. A preliminary public meeting was held in the Free-Trade Hall on the preceding evening. Though appointed to commence at an early hour—six o'clock—it drew such a crowd that it had to be divided, the Friends' Meeting House, in the same neighbourhood, having been thrown open to receive the hundreds who could not force admission into the larger hall. The chief meeting was presided over by Mr. Henry Richard, M.P., who was accompanied to the platform by a large number of the leading men of the denomination. Among them were Mr. Jacob Bright, M.P.; Mr. Alfred Illingworth, M.P.; Mr. E. M. Richards, M.P.; Sir James Watts; the Revs. Dr. McKerrow, Dr. Mellor, Dr. Allon, Dr. Raleigh; Dr. Landels, J. G. Rogers, A. Hannay, R. W. Dale, and H. W. Crosskey. Letters of apology were read from Mr. Duncan McLaren, M.P.; Mr. John Candlish, M.P.; Mr. Osborne Morgan, M.P.; Mr. Charles Gilpin, M.P.; and the Hon. Auberon Herbert, M.P. The proceedings of this preliminary public meeting were intended to foreshadow the scope of the conference. The chairman, in alluding to the postponement from December, expressed the gratitude of all Nonconformists, as loyal citizens, that the danger which then threatened the Heir to the Throne had been averted. After declaring that they met ostensibly and avowedly as Nonconformists, he anticipated the charge which might be brought against them of stirring up mutiny in the Liberal camp and withdrawing themselves from their former associations. He asked, did any man imagine that it was a pleasure to them to stand in a position of isolation and antagonism to their old allies? They were isolated, not because they had withdrawn, but because they had been forsaken. Finding their public guides all merely negative, they had nothing to do but to fall back upon their own principles, and to abide by them firmly. Those principles were—that the hand of the law must not be allowed to enter into the province of religion; that money exacted from the general taxation, whether by Imperial or local authority, cannot be safely or righteously applied to the teaching of religion, whether in church or school; that, in so far as the State interfered in the education of the people, it must confine itself to what it can properly do, without trespassing on any man's rights or offending unjustly any man's conscience, that was to give a literary and scientific education and leave religious instruction—where he believed God had left it—to the care of the Christian Church. He hoped that Nonconformists would take their stand firmly and broadly upon these principles. Some said they were acting unfairly towards Mr. Forster, but this he deprecated. He had slowly been forced to the conviction that Mr. Forster had forgotten his old Radical and Nonconformist friends; and, if he was determined to defy them, there was nothing for them but to try a fall with the Vice-President of the Council. A greater statesman, Lord Russell, had once said, "I know the Dissenters. They carry the Reform Bill, the Abolition of Slavery, and Free Trade, and they will carry this question." The Nonconformists were never more earnest or united; and he could add to what Lord Russell had said, "They will carry the abolition, or a serious amendment, of this Education Act." Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, of Birmingham, moved the first resolution—"That, in the judgment of this meeting, the time has come for the Nonconformist adherents of the Liberal cause to insist on a thorough and consistent application of the principles of religious equality in the public policy of the leaders of their party." This was seconded by the Rev. A. Hannay, secretary of the Congregational Union, and supported by Mr. Jacob Bright, M.P., and the Rev. Dr. Landels. The Rev. Dr. Enoch Mellor, of Halifax, moved—"That the system of subsidising religious denominations in the business of public education, which has, unhappily, been favoured and strengthened by the present Government, is deserving of condemnation, as being unwise in principle, unfair in its working, and injurious in its effects to the interests of the nation." This was seconded by the Rev. Dr. Raleigh, and supported by Mr. Illingworth, M.P. The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Conference, on Wednesday, was even more imposing as a demonstration than Tuesday's meetings. The Friends' Meeting-House is a large building with spacious galleries, and was most inconveniently crowded. There are two meeting-houses which were thrown into one, but the 1880 delegates overflowed the double building. The Conference ought to have met in the Free-Trade Hall; there would then have been ample room for the vast number of delegates in the body of the hall, and for the crowds of interested spectators in the galleries. As it was, the Conference became practically a huge, densely-packed public meeting. But it was a public meeting in which every individual represented a body behind him. Their determination is unquestionable. Every reference made by any speaker to the entire secularisation of education, and the complete removal of all distinctions based on religious belief or ecclesiastical connection met with universal applause. Mr. Miall, who presided, had, of course, a most flattering reception. Yet Mr. Miall told some home truths. He said that the fault which had produced this agitation did not lie entirely with the Government. He said that at the time of the discussions on the Education Bill those who constituted the Conference had not made up their own minds. They failed to distinguish between their religious principles and their religious sentiment. Though they held that a Government was a secular organisation for secular purposes, they felt that religion should never be dissociated from education. They therefore hesitated to limit Government to the secular part of education, and allowed it to assume a religious function. Hence all the difficulty, and hence the limitation of the Government to its secular function in all education—elementary, secondary, and University—was the only possible solution. These declarations were received with loud expressions of approval and without a whisper of dissent. When Mr. Miall declared that their object was "to resist the current which is bearing the nation back towards priestly supremacy," and when he said that in the new programme of the National Education League he saw the basis of a fair settlement, he was quite as enthusiastically cheered as he was when he declared that Mr. Forster's Act was not a compromise, because the Nonconformists had never been consulted and had had no part or lot in the settlement. The Conference, in fact, by every demonstration of enthusiasm, has given unqualified adhesion to the principle of keeping the national teaching, whether in the elementary school, or the grammar school, or the University, to secular matters.

The Conference Committee wisely determined to expend the first fiery zeal of the Conference on the calmer portion of its business. After passing, by acclamation, an address congratulating the Queen on the restoration of the Prince of Wales, the Conference began its political work by devoting the sitting to the discussion of clerical fellowships in the Universities, and the carrying out of the Endowed Schools Act. Professor Wilkins read an admirable paper on the first question, pointing out how much remained to be done before the Universities were fully and fairly open to the nation. A suggestion that the meeting should protest against the limitation of Divinity degrees to members of the Established Church, and support Mr. Stevenson's motion of last year, for opening them, was only rejected because there seemed to be a strong opinion that national Universities should not give degrees in Divinity at all. The meeting, however, heartily pledged itself to the support of the bill which Mr. Fawcett has promised to introduce for the abolition of the restriction by which so many headships of colleges, and nearly one half the fellowships, are restricted to persons who have taken holy orders in the Established Church.

Professor Sheldon Amos was too ill to read his paper, and

Mrs. Amos met with a most hearty reception in a gallant and with admirable elocution, her voice was unable to reach over the MS. to the Rev. Alfred Steinthal, one of the secretaries. The paper was an admirable account of the endowed schools controversy, but it attempted to vindicate the liberality and good faith of the Endowed Schools Commissioners, and the vindication was not well received. The complaint of the Conference was that the reconstructed schools are everywhere being put into the hands of bodies of trustees so constituted that no Liberal and no Nonconformist will ever have a chance of getting on the trusts or being appointed to a head-mastership. One speaker declared that the only ecclesiastical functionary omitted from these new trusts was the parish beadle; and a remark that some person, possessing the confidence of the great body of Dissenters, should be put upon the Commission, received most demonstrative approval. But it is quite evident that the operation of the Endowed Schools Act is raising a bitter feeling all over the land, and that nothing short of a recognition of the system of popular election in the choice of trustees will ever satisfy the public.

At the evening meeting the Conference adjourned to the Free-Trade Hall, the body of which was filled by the delegates, the gallery being occupied by their friends. The Rev. H. W. Crosskey accused the Government of resolving to extinguish national, and setting up ecclesiastical, education, and declared that it must be resisted at all hazards. The Rev. J. G. Rogers called unsectarian religious education a phantom which the League had been pursuing; and, in reply to the statement of the Irish priesthood that the Bible is a Protestant book, declared that it is a Protestant book, and that therefore it is utterly unfair to introduce it into national schools so long as any part of the nation is Roman Catholic. The Rev. Dr. Raleigh said:—"I protest that no conscience clause which the wit of man can devise can be any protection to me or my child without first maiming and degrading us." He wound up his speech by declaring that there was only one solution to this difficulty. The State must limit its teaching to secular subjects, and the zeal and faith of the organised exponents of religion must be called forth to provide voluntary religious instruction. All these statements were received with great unanimity and enthusiasm. The resolutions which were passed pledged the Conference, first, to the support of a motion for the repeal of the 25th clause of the Education Act, and for the omission from the 74th clause of the proviso which allows school boards to pay school fees; second, to a protest against the payment of public money to schools under private, irresponsible, and denominational management; and, third, to the opinion that, in a national system of education, the school board and the State should make provision solely for the secular instruction which all children may receive in common, leaving the provision for the religious education of each district to voluntary effort. The extraordinary unanimity and enthusiasm shown by the meeting is a very remarkable feature of the Conference.

TRADING AT INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS.—On Monday a numerously-attended meeting, presided over by the Lord Mayor, was held at the Mansion House, to oppose the converting of the International Exhibition of 1872 into a bazaar. Resolutions were passed protesting against the scheme of the Commissioners as entirely subversive of the original design of international exhibitions, and as being unjust to the trading community.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.—Mr. Gladstone has issued a circular to his supporters in the House of Commons reminding them that Parliament will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 6, when, immediately after the business connected with the Address, the Speaker will retire from the chair, "which he has occupied so long, and with so much honour." The House will then be invited to proceed to the election of a successor, and the Premier expresses a hope that it may meet the convenience of the Liberal members to be present, both at the moving of the Address and at the election of the new Speaker.

VIOLENT GALE.—A terrible gale swept over the metropolis at an early hour on Wednesday morning. The violence of the wind was unusually great, and the rain came down in torrents. At about half-past five one of the large pinnacles of the central tower of the New Palace at Westminster was blown off. Fortunately, it fell outside the hall, which thus escaped injury; but, as the mass weighed several tons, it smashed in the roof over the electric telegraph office. It is reported that a severe south-west gale has done much damage to the shipping in the Channel. The late heavy rains have caused extensive floods at Oxford, Windsor, Eton, and other places.

DISTRAINING FOR AN EDUCATION RATE.—In our last week's Number we reported the proceedings against Mr. Harvey Adams, china manufacturer, Fenton, for refusing to pay an education rate of 4s. 6d., levied on behalf of the school board of Stoke-on-Trent. Mr. Adams has all along avowed his determination to refuse to pay the money, even though the order was made by the magistrates, declaring that his conscience would not allow him to contribute to a rate any portion of which was to be devoted to denominational schools. The warrant of distress was executed, on Monday evening, by Inspector Harrison, who seized a weather-glass, which will be sold in payment of the rate and costs.

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION.—A conference in support of the motion in favour of international arbitration, to be brought before Parliament next Session by Mr. Henry Richard, was held in the Townhall, Manchester, on Monday. The Mayor of Manchester presided, and addresses in support of Mr. Richard's motion were delivered by himself, Mr. Jacob Bright, M.P., and Mr. Peter Rylands, M.P. A letter was read from the Bishop of Manchester expressing sympathy with the object of the meeting, and from Lord Derby stating that he was watching the movement with great interest. An association for Lancashire and Cheshire was formed, and it was agreed, in furtherance of the movement, that a special fund of £10,000 should be raised in three yearly instalments. A meeting was held in the evening to promote the same object, at which Mr. Hugh Mason presided.

INSTRUCTION IN SCIENCE AND ART FOR WOMEN.—By permission of the Lord President of the Council, a course of six lectures on the most celebrated and influential composers of Italy, France, England, and Germany for the clavichord and the pianoforte, in connection with the general history of music of the eighteenth and nineteenth century (illustrated by performances on the pianoforte), will be delivered on Monday afternoons, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, and March 4 and 11, at half-past two o'clock precisely, by Mr. Ernest Pauer, in the Lecture Theatre, South Kensington Museum. These lectures have been prepared so as to be useful for educational purposes. Not only will the student become acquainted with the characteristic features of the life of each composer, but also with the position he holds in regard to the general history of music. The gradual development of pianoforte literature and pianoforte-playing will be illustrated by many examples. The influence of one composer on those coming after him will be traced; all technical specialities will be explained, and the different schools classified.

THE UNITED SERVICE INSTITUTION.—A deputation from this institution waited on the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on Monday, to urge its claims on the Government. We are glad to learn that their reception was, on the whole, encouraging. In reply to the deputation, Mr. Lowe stated that the three months' notice to quit had been served upon the institution with great reluctance, because, having visited the institution and seen its extent, and the large and valuable collection which it contained, he felt that nothing but the exigencies of the public service would have justified him in taking such a step. He stated that, although the notice of the Government could not be withdrawn, he was happy to inform the deputation that he had been able to make arrangements by which the necessity for removing the institution, at least for the present, had passed away. Still, he thought it would be unwise in the council not to make inquiries with a view to placing the institution on a more secure and permanent footing; and he further stated that the Government was fully alive to the value of the institution, and he should therefore be prepared, when the proper time arrived, to recommend that the Government should grant it assistance towards placing it on such permanent footing.

THE LATE SIR R. MURCHISON.—The magnificent avurandite quartz vase, with its pedestal of polished grey porphyry, which was bequeathed by the late Sir Roderick Murchison to the Museum of Practical Geology, in Jermyn-street, has now been placed in that institution. The following description is taken from Bristow's "Glossary of Mineralogy":—"By far the finest specimen of the Siberian variety (of avurandite) in this country is a highly-polished vase, 4 ft. high and 6 ft. in circumference, which, with its pedestal of polished grey porphyry, was presented to Sir Roderick I. Murchison, as 'the explorer of the geology of Russia,' by the late Emperor Nicholas I. The prevailing tint of this magnificent work of art is French white, or pearl grey, clouded with delicate rose-coloured tints; and it is equally remarkable for the beauty of the material and the elegance of its form as for its excessive rarity, the difficulty of procuring a stone of such large dimensions and of polishing so hard a substance being so great that only one other similar vase (presented to the late Baron Humboldt, and now in the Royal Museum, Berlin) has been made. The materials of the base and pedestal were obtained in the Kourgan Mountains, in the province of Tomsk, and were cut and polished in Siberia."

CONFERENCE ON THE BALLOT AT BRADFORD.

On Monday evening a great meeting was held in St. George's Hall, Bradford, in favour of the introduction of a comprehensive Ballot Bill in the ensuing Session, and a redistribution of seats. Above 3000 persons were present. Mr. Alderman E. West presided, and among others on the platform were Mr. Miall, M.P., Mr. Illingworth, M.P., Alderman Carter, M.P., Mr. E. A. Freeman, and several active Liberal leaders of the district.

Mr. Allerman Law moved, and Mr. Angus Holden seconded, a resolution calling on the Government to introduce, as early as possible, a complete and comprehensive Ballot Bill, to include the abolition of public nominations, the extension of the hours of polling, and the prohibition of the use of public-houses as committee-rooms at all elections.

Mr. E. A. Freeman supported the resolution.

Mr. Edward Miall, M.P., said he wished that the topic had not been so completely worn out. He felt it was a needless waste of energy and strength in using it to continually flog a dead horse. He had spoken to them before on this question, and had hoped that he should not have had to appear again on the same subject. What was it they wanted? They had come together that evening simply to obtain their rights—a complete and fair representation of the people of England. They wanted the best way of using their votes for representatives in Parliament. There was no reason in the world why half a dozen householders should not sign a nomination-paper, and hand it to the returning officer. They heard something about the ballot last Session. He himself thought that it was a mistake in the Government that they did not make the Ballot Bill take precedence of the Army Regulation Bill. He thought events had proved that it was a mistake. They had had three months' repetition, not of arguments, but of statements made with the express intention of delaying the Ballot Bill and ousting it out of the Ministerial programme. They had, while that bill was in Committee, one member who had spoken no less than seventy-three times. He hoped they would not have this delay next Session. He hoped that if it was attempted to delay by obstruction only the expression of the will of the majority, the head of the House of Commons would assert its dignity by putting down the obstructions. With regard to the case of public-houses as committee-rooms, they would fully appreciate that change. He had never known drunkenness advance a single principle of freedom. They called upon men to work for their own principles, and it was a great and almost irresistible temptation to send them to the public-house. But these were details. What he wanted to impress on them was this: A Parliamentary or a municipal election ought to be a great moral and intellectual exercise, instead of being, what it was now, the cause of more demoralisation than the five years' preaching and teaching could remove. Until the freemen of England took an interest in public matters they had not attained that state of freedom which they ought to reach. He did not believe the Lords would find it to their advantage again to reject that bill. They certainly greatly impaired the reputation of their House when, after a session of much leisure, they refused to take into consideration the Ballot Bill till they had had their customary recess. He thought, however, that when it came before them again they would not set their faces against the deliberate determination of the people. They would receive the Ballot Bill in an early part of the Session, and, whatever alteration they might make, it remained for the House of Commons, by the exercise of all their vigilance, to see that the principle of the bill was not impaired. He trusted that they would not have to pass through another election without the protection of the ballot.

The resolution was unanimously carried.

Mr. J. Firth moved a resolution protesting against the continuance of the anomalies in the representative system employed in the existing unjust distribution of seats and in the inequality between the county and borough representation.

Mr. A. Illingworth, M.P., seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mr. Carter, M.P., who gave statistics showing the great preponderance in political power possessed by the small boroughs.

The resolution was unanimously carried, and the proceedings closed with the usual formal vote to the chair.

SNAKE-CHARMING IN INDIA.

We have long felt convinced that the whole process of snake-catching by professional charmers, as ordinarily witnessed by English spectators in India, was a piece of clever jugglery. We therefore determined not long ago to examine the operation impartially but strictly, and with this view we organised a party of critics. Two snake-charmers were sent for, and on their assuring us that the appearance of our garden indicated the presence of snakes, permission was given them to charm out reptiles out of their holes. One of the men set to work, and in a few minutes his face lightened up with the satisfaction of success. He had discovered a snake. The party was called round, and shown the snake in the hole. As Theodore Hook persuaded a London mob that the Lion on Northumberland House wagged his tail, so did this man by determined asseveration make some of us believe that we actually saw the snake in its hole. Being satisfied that the snake was there, the charmer was told to proceed. In an instant he seized the snake, pulled it out of the hole, and threw it on the ground. Nothing could have been more convincing; for, having watched the man most closely, we were all confident that the snake had not been let loose in the first instance. It was certainly very strange. But scepticism, however, had a place in the ranks of our party; and, as some did not believe their eyes, the charmers were directed to make another search. Before commencing, the men were examined; their clothes and turbans were opened and shaken, but, on requesting to be allowed to wear them as a protection against the attacks, they were permitted to resume their clothing. They started afresh, and nothing could have been fairer and more above board. They smiled at our incredulity, and asserted that to prove they were not mere jugglers, they would catch more snakes, which, of course, they did. Scepticism, however, still had its doubts, notwithstanding the clear evidence presented to the sight. Another trial was made, and when one of the charmers was some little distance from his basket, he was rushed upon and seized by the sceptics, who wanted to examine his clothing with their own hands. The rogue cried for mercy, and begged to be spared the humiliation of being forcibly stripped. "No quarter," was the reply that he was met with. He then confessed that his trade was deception, and that he would show us before "our very eyes" how he caught snakes. A complete circle being formed around, leaving just sufficient room for him to swing his arms in, he produced from the midst of us a huge cobra seven feet long! Scepticism was triumphant, and the much-injured charmer looked as most impostors do when their tricks are discovered. The plan of operation was then explained to us. Snakes (having had their fangs extracted) are put into separate bags, and the mouth closed by a slip-knot. This bag is then fastened to the string which all natives wear round the waist, with the mouth downwards. When the expectant attention of the spectators has been worked up to the right pitch of plastic credulity, the charmer stoops down, and sweeps up bits of grass and earth with the right hand, and simultaneously the slip-knot is drawn by the left hand, into the palm of which the snake naturally drops. The right hand is brought up with a swoop, and meets the left from which the snake is passed into the right, which then flourishes the reptile in the face of the terrified but admiring spectators. The operation is one of the most perfect pieces of sleight-of-hand that one could wish to witness. To make sure that this in itself was not an imposition, the man's basket was now examined, and between the top and a cloth loosely thrown over it were several bags tied up with snakes in them. Wishing to assure ourselves still further whether this was the usual plan of deception followed by these people, some other snake-charmers were sent for, and their baskets, being suddenly seized and examined, were found to have on the

top seven or eight bags with different kinds of snakes in them. Two bags contained magnificent cobras. During these experiments the charmer was once or twice severely bitten. The wound profuse, and the black stone was applied, and caustic circles were described with a dry root. Fangs were also extracted (from snakes which had been deprived of them previously) by inserting a fold of cloth into the snake's mouth, and closing the jaws on it; so on pulling the cloth out the fangs are supposed by the spectator to have been wrenched out with it; and certainly the holes in the cloth proved that there had been penetration. The explanation, however, of this portion of the system of imposition is that the harmless teeth are left in the snake's head, and those are always fallen back upon when sceptics are met with, to prove the extraction of the venomous fangs. And that the operator should be severely bitten is, of course, a part of the performance.—*Madras Mail*.

INSTRUCTION IN SCIENCE AND ART FOR WOMEN.

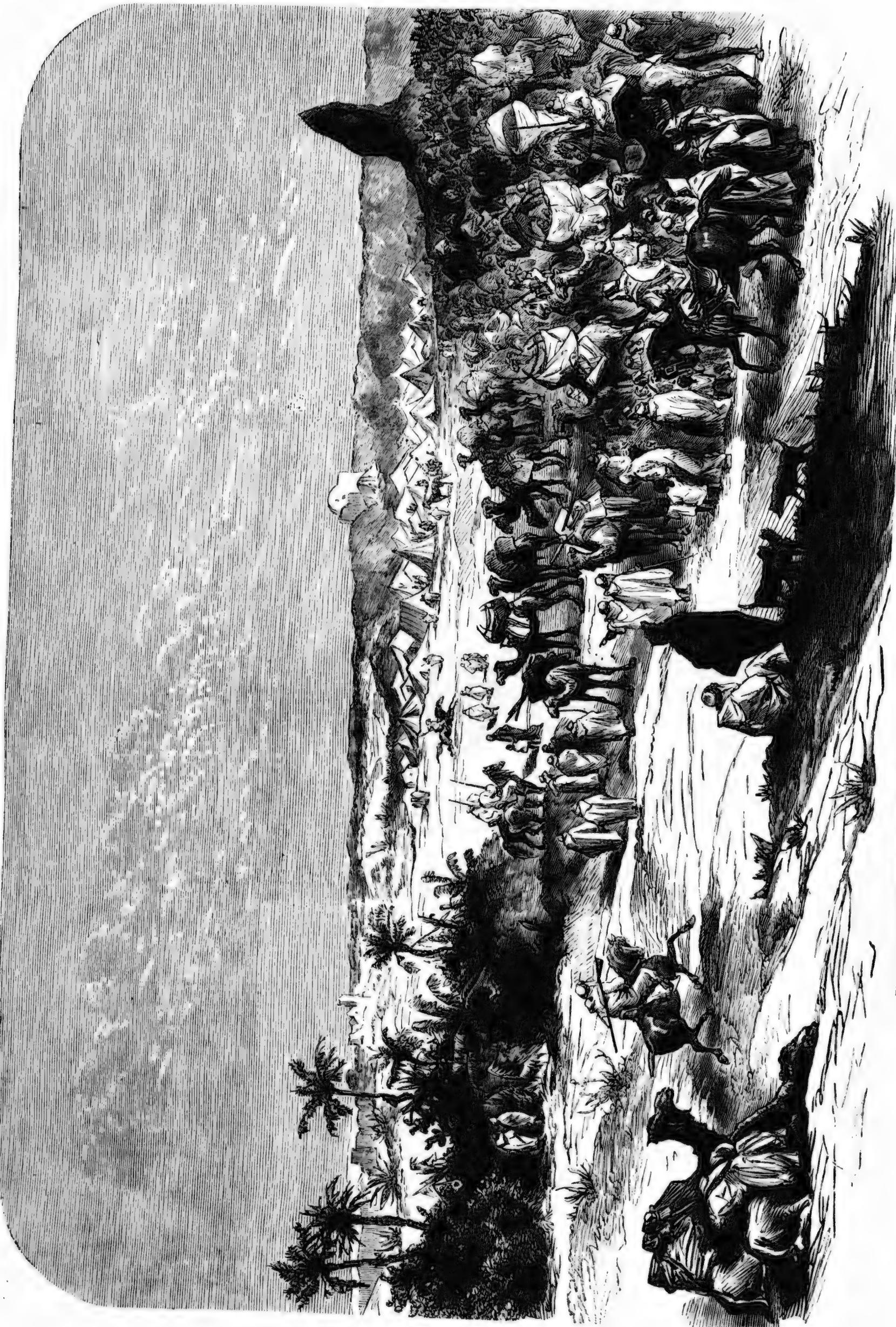
The winter course of lectures at the South Kensington Museum for the instruction of women in science and art continues to make satisfactory progress and to be well attended. The only thing to be regretted in connection with the course is the announcement that Professor Huxley, who had arranged to deliver the concluding series (on "Biology") and had exchanged places with Professor Duncan, who gave the first series (on "Physiography"), has been under the necessity of going abroad for the benefit of his health. It is to be hoped, however, that the Professor's sojourn in Egypt will have the desired effect, and that he will soon reappear amongst us in renewed strength and spirits. Last Saturday Professor Guthrie delivered the fourth lecture of his series on "Physics and Chemistry," the second series of the course for the season. He began by reverting to that branch of his subject on which he spoke at the close of his previous lecture—the pressure of the air upon the earth's surface. That pressure, as he then explained, amounts, as nearly as it can be calculated, on an average to 15 lb. on every square inch. It is sometimes greater, as in deep mines. It is variously affected at different elevations and by changes of weather. It is not so great at the top of a lofty mountain as at the sea level. It is not so great in moist as in dry weather, and hence the variations of the barometer. The average pressure, however, is estimated at 15 lb. to the square inch. But, speaking of the pressure of the air upon the earth's surface, or upon objects on the earth's surface, we must bear in mind that it is not merely a downward pressure. Air, like water, transmits pressure equally in all directions, so that we move as freely under the air as fishes move under the water. Again, while exercising this enormous pressure upon us, the air exercises the same force, so to speak, upon itself. Being an elastic substance, it yields to the pressure of its own weight, becoming denser the greater the crushing force is. So that we may regard ourselves as living at the bottom of an ocean of air—creeping at the bottom of an ocean the water of which is condensed. Observing that the condensed air is in the state of an elastic spring, Professor Guthrie proceeded to illustrate his subject by reference to the barometer, the suction-pump, the air-pump, and the siphon; and showed that, although the effect of the pump, the siphon, and similar contrivances is usually attributed to suction, or "the sucking force," it is really due to the pressure of the atmosphere. He gave an apt illustration of the effect of this pressure by exhibiting, explaining, and making experiments with a toy diving-bell. This tiny article, like a small thimble with the open end downward, and having a bubble of air in it, is placed in water in a small glass cylinder, over the mouth of which there is an elastic membrane. The bubble of air is sufficient to keep the thimble up; but when you press upon the elastic the thimble sinks, to rise again only as the pressure is removed. And why? Because the pressure is transmitted to the bubble of air, which is compressed accordingly, and, although so much lighter than water before as to float the thimble, is now so much heavier, or less buoyant, as to let the thimble go down with it. It rises when the pressure is removed, because then it expands and becomes lighter again. This toy diving-bell illustrates what has been said about the transmission of pressure in all directions, and the effect of pressure in relation to volume. Having disposed of that branch of his subject, the Professor entered upon a new chapter with regard to the "mechanics of air"—namely, the chapter of sound; and it is here, he observed, that physics, if we are to draw a distinction between physics and mechanics, may perhaps be said to commence. Air is said to be compressible. When a mass of air is suddenly compressed the neighbouring air is immediately affected; or if, on the other hand, a mass of air suddenly expands, the neighbouring air has similarly to accept the expansion. An analogy must be drawn between states of compression and states of height. We are so much more familiar with the motion of a wave than with compression, that it is necessary to draw that analogy once for all. A cork floating upon the sea rises and falls with the waves, and that rising and falling is accompanied by some lateral motion. What is it, then, that moves in the case of the wave? The water does not progress; but the state of the water progresses—the height of the water progresses, each particle of its surface taking its turn of being the highest. That state of progression may be compared to the spread of news amongst the people. The people themselves may not appreciate the news, yet the news will spread; and in the same way, although the water does not advance, yet the wave advances. Exactly the same thing takes place in the mass of air which receives compression. Supposing you take a quantity of air in a tube and compress one end of it violently, there will be a state of compression travelling from that end in the direction in which it has received the blow. That state of compression is called the "sound wave." Professor Guthrie suggested that this is, perhaps, not a strictly proper term. It is one of the many instances in which we confound cause and the effect upon ourselves. It is as wrong to call it a wave of sound as it would be to call a lump of sugar a lump of sweetness. Sugar is sweet as we taste it, and this is a wave of sound as our ears receive it. Sight is the effect of light upon our eyes; but we never should think of calling a wave of light a "wave of sight," as we call this a wave of sound. Taking the term, however, as it stands, and taking a series of wheels or pulleys set on edge and held together at short intervals by a stretched elastic band to represent wave sounds and the air, the lecturer, by agitating these, gave ocular demonstration of the passage of the wave sound through the air. Hit one of these pulleys, and almost instantaneously the next and the next start off in succession, and that illustrates the wave of compression travelling along its course. A wave on the surface of a liquid is a travelling variation in height. A wave in a solid, liquid, or gas is a travelling variation in density. When a series of waves travels along the surface of a liquid, there is a valley between each two hills and a hill between each two valleys. When a series of waves travels through a body, there is a region of rarefaction between each two regions of compression, and a region of compression between each two regions of rarefaction. With the aid of a diagram, the Professor then described the wave sounds which a bee gives forth, and which may be likened to the ripples given out when a pebble is thrown into a calm lake. For every hum the bee gives forth there starts off a wave of compression. The bee gives a simple sound at first, but the succession of sounds becomes a note or noise. The report that is produced by the bursting of a paper bag filled with air is one of the simplest sounds we can have. A simple sound is the sensation produced upon the brain when the drum of the ear receives a wave, or travelling variation in the density of the air. The waves themselves are commonly called sounds. In order that sound may be produced some elastic medium is necessary. This is necessary in order to receive compression and to transmit it from one part of space to another. Air is this elastic medium, and where it does not exist sound cannot be received and transmitted. There is very little air between the sun and the earth. Possibly,

at one hundred miles above the earth's surface the amount of air in the heavens is quite inappreciable; and, therefore, if the sun or the moon were to explode, no sound could be transmitted so as to reach the earth, because there is no air by which sound could be transmitted. Sounds travel through the air at the rate of about 1100 ft. a second. Very loud sounds travel faster than low ones. Sounds are reflected like surface waves. The loudness of a sound depends upon the degree of rarefaction and condensation which the air undergoes—that is, upon the distance backwards and forwards through which a particle of air moves as the wave passes it. This distance is called the "amplitude" of the vibration. Waves of sound obey the same law of reflection as surface waves do. We are scarcely accustomed to consider the effect of a single sound. If one strikes a box in a room it is not a single sound which reaches your ear. It strikes different objects in the room and reaches your ears at different times and in different ways. Hence we have a noise, and not a single sound, when single sounds are produced; and when the same sound is repeated at regular intervals of time, but more and more quickly, the ear becomes unable to distinguish between the individual sounds, and a musical note is produced. In order that a musical note may be produced, not less than sixteen vibrations must succeed one another in a second. As the number of vibrations is increased, the "pitch" of the note is raised. The highest audible note consists of about 38,000 separate sounds in a second. The range of notes employed in music lies between 40 and 4000 separate vibrations per second. We must regard a note, therefore, as a succession of sounds, and the pitch of a note as the rapidity of sequence in the separate impressions which reach the ear, whilst the loudness of a note, which is quite independent of the pitch, is, as already said, the "amplitude" of the vibration. Notes of the same pitch are said to be in "unison." If, in the same time, the vibrations of the one are twice as numerous as the other, the first is an octave higher than the second. Every alternate vibration of the first coincides with a vibration of the second. "Beats" are produced when the periods of augmentation of the one note by the other are distinguished. They take place at greater intervals according as the notes are more nearly in unison. An elastic rod, fastened at one end, swings more slowly the longer and thicker it is. When a stretched string vibrates, the pitch of the note depends upon the tension of the string, its length, its thickness, and its density. A rapid sequence of puffs of air may produce a musical note. In the "syrup" notes of various pitch are thus produced, and the number of puffs in a given time can be measured. The fundamental note of a string is the note produced by the vibration of the entire string. A stretched string may be made to vibrate in segments. The points between the segments are nearly at rest and are called "nodal" points or "nodes." The notes then produced are higher according as the number of vibrating segments is greater. All the various points thus touched upon by the lecturer were illustrated, as far as possible, by experiments. The lecture, of which we have given but an outline, was a most able and interesting one, and at its close Professor Guthrie was very heartily applauded.

Professor Guthrie delivered the fifth of his series of lectures on "Physics and Chemistry" at the South Kensington Museum, on Wednesday. He began by making some further observations on the vibration of the strings of musical instruments, showing how it is possible to make a cord vibrate either as a whole or in segments, pointing out that between the segments occur what are called the nodes, nodal points, or nodal lines, and tracing the connection between the vibrations of a string such as produce music and those which occur in other bodies. Between the segments, when a cord vibrates, there is a point of comparative rest. It is not complete rest, else the vibration could not be communicated from one end of a cord to the other. It is a state of comparative rest, and it will be found that powder strewn upon a vibrating body will collect in these regions of comparative rest. In the string of a musical instrument the intervals of comparative rest affect the notes and account for the beats. The same body may vibrate across its length, as in the case of a violin string, or along its length, as in the case of a tuning-fork. Vibration in the former case is called transverse vibration, and in the latter longitudinal vibration, and the one may be converted into the other. Having illustrated these points by a number of interesting experiments, Professor Guthrie proceeded to discuss another chapter of his subject—namely, that of heat. In proceeding to consider heat, one must first of all clear one's mind from the confusion which often exists between the ideas of heat and temperature. Temperature, as far as we ourselves are concerned, is a matter of sensation. When you plunge your hand into hot water, your hand receives heat; when you plunge it into cold water, it loses heat. The sensible temperature depends on the quantity of heat which the hand gains or loses. Temperature and heat, however, are two different things. Heat is the force which affects temperature. All known matter has heat, and, as when the hand is plunged in the water, receives heat when it becomes warmer, and gives out heat when it becomes colder. Strictly speaking, therefore, to get cold is to lose heat. Cold is the comparative absence of heat. Hence it is that bodies of unequal temperature, when in contact, attain the same temperature, from the fact that the hotter body loses, and the colder gains, heat. Distinguishing, therefore, between heat and temperature, the lecturer went on to consider some of the effects of heat. The effects of heat on inanimate matter is manifested in a variety of ways—by the alternations it produces in regard to the size, shape, and physical state of the matter; by the changes it produces in colour, by its influence upon magnetism and electricity, and by its chemical effect. Heat is generally supposed to be a vibration of the atoms of matter. The chief sources of heat are the internal heat of the earth, the heat of the sun, friction, compression, change of physical state, chemical unison, electrical discharge, and the heat which attends life. All gases expand by heat. A cubic foot of any gas at the temperature of melting ice becomes a cubic foot and three-tenths and six-hundredths at the temperature of boiling water. The air thermometer measures change of temperature by change of volume of air. The fire-balloon and the trade winds are illustrations of the expansion of air by heat. Liquids also expand by heat, but not at all to the same degree. Water, as it is warmed from the temperature of melting ice, first contracts and then expands. The expansion of mercury by heat is made use of in thermometers to measure temperature. Solids also expand to various amounts when heated. Bodies of the same temperature may have different quantities of heat in them owing to their different capacities for heat. The proportion between the capacity of any weight of a substance for heat and the capacity of the same weight of water is the "specific heat" of that substance. A body may receive heat without getting hotter, owing to a change in the physical state of that body, as when a solid melts or a liquid boils, and the heat which thus changes or accompanies the physical state of a body is said to become "latent." In the present instance Professor Guthrie dwelt more particularly on the effect of heat in the expansion of solids, reserving further observations on the subject for his next lecture.

CHRISTINA EDMUND'S has been pronounced insane, and the sentence of death will not, therefore, be carried out.

THE PRINCE OF WALES.—The Prince of Wales continues to progress in a most satisfactory manner, and the traces of the past illness, both in regard to the general constitutional derangement and the episodic symptoms of a local character, are becoming gradually and surely obliterated. The physical and mental strength improves in the same proportion, and, should the weather be propitious, no long time will elapse before his Royal Highness is enabled to extend the circuit of his daily exercise beyond the walls of Sandringham House. A form of thanksgiving for the recovery of the Prince was read in the churches on Sunday; and a solemn thanksgiving ceremony is to take place in St. Paul's Cathedral in February, which will be rendered as grand and imposing as the occasion demands. The service is to take place under the dome, and seats will be provided for her Majesty, the Royal family, the members of the Legislature, the City authorities, and other distinguished persons. It is added that the Mayors of the principal towns in the United Kingdom are to be invited.



THE ALGERIAN INSURRECTION : THE GOUMS OF SI KADOUR DRINKING SPOILS TO CAMP AT THE OASIS OF BENOUD.

THE FRENCH IN ALGERIA.

THE prosecution of French victories over the rebellious tribes of Algeria continues to furnish some military intelligence to Parisian journals, and we take advantage of an opportunity of publishing some authentic illustrations which have just been sent home, with a brief report, by an officer in the 4th Regiment of the Chasseurs d'Afrique.

The events referred to have taken place in the province of Oran and the district of Ouled-Sidi-Chieck, where a very serious engagement had taken place between the tribe of Goums, under the chieftainship of Si-Sliman-Ben-Hamza and Si-Kadour-Ould-Adda and those commanded by Si-Kadour-Ben-Amza, the cousin of Si-Sliman.

On receiving intelligence that a large force was marching southward, Si-Kadour-Ben-Hamza, who had gone to celebrate the Ramadan at El-Abiad-Sidi-Chieck, hastily abandoned the kasa which was the birthplace of his family, and, driving before him his flocks and cattle, went off toward Mengouve, with the men of several tribes who had revolted some years ago. There he believed that he would be able to halt in safety, thanks to the failure of water, which had arrested the march of the troops, but suddenly found himself surprised by the Goums, under the orders of his cousin, Si-Sliman, and was forced to make a precipitate retreat. His uncle, Si-Lalla-Ben-Hamza, his accomplice, was reported to have been killed, and five hundred of his horsemen shared the same fate, while his sister was made prisoner by Si-Sliman; all the women, flocks, tents, and property of the marabout becoming the spoil of the conqueror. The refractory tribes which accompanied him have since submitted to the French government, and completed the expectations that were entertained of restoring tranquillity to the province. The two victorious chiefs brought their prizes and prisoners to the Oasis of Benoud; and they consisted, among other treasures, of 15,000 camels obtained in the conflict, while the sheep were still more numerous. Our large Engraving represents the attack on Ben-Hamza's camp.

THE ASSASSINATION OF JAMES FISK.

THE American papers publish details of the murder of James Fisk by E. S. Stokes. The following account is taken from the New York Times of Jan. 7:—

The startling intelligence that Edward S. Stokes had shot and mortally wounded James Fisk, jun., flew like lightning through the city yesterday afternoon about four o'clock, the unavoidable notoriety of both persons imparting unusual agility to the seven-league boots of busy Rumour. For some time past the respectable dwellers in our city have been shocked and disgusted with the unavoidable publicity of their licentious amours—unavoidable because they have been discussed in the police and law courts. No sympathy with plaintiff or defendant was possible. On Jan. 6 a libel suit against Fisk at the instance of a Mrs. Mansfield, in which Stokes was mixed up, had been before the police-courts. The plaintiff and Stokes were both present in court all the forenoon. Both were in the witness-box, and subjected to examination by the opposing counsel. By a strange coincidence it happened that Stokes was interrogated as to whether he had ever threatened Fisk in any way. He seemed somewhat embarrassed by the question, but finally said that he had never threatened him otherwise than with legal proceedings. During all the time he was in the court-rooms Stokes was entirely self-possessed, with this one exception, and did not in any way betray the deadly purpose which he executed two hours after leaving the court-room with Mrs. Mansfield. At a few minutes before four o'clock Stokes was seen walking carelessly up and down the main corridor of the Grand Central Hotel on the parlour floor. This corridor is one story above the street, is parallel with Broadway, and at its northern end is reached by the ladies' staircase from the street. Passing and repassing the head of this staircase, Stokes glanced furtively down the staircase each time. His actions at the moment attracted little attention. Dressed with great elegance in clothing of light colour, a tall, well-formed, well-featured imperturbable man, there was nothing in his appearance not in keeping with the place or to excite suspicion in a casual observer. At four o'clock

Colonel James Fisk, jun., drove up in a carriage, and, walking briskly across the pavement, passed through the outer door of the hotel. When he had done so he spoke to John T. Redmond, the porter on duty at the door, asking him if Mrs. Moss was in. Redmond replied that she was not, but that he believed her daughter was in her grandmother's room. Fisk then said, "Tell her I am here," but he started up the stairs before the porter. Up seven steps from the street there is a small landing. Reaching this, Fisk happened to glance upward, and there saw the imperturbable, well-dressed man, whom he instantly recognised as Edward S. Stokes, standing at the head of the stairs. This man had his right arm resting on the standard at the head of the stairs, and Fisk noticed that there was something in the right hand. Before the victim could see that this something was a pistol, without a word being uttered by either of the men, Stokes, seeming to take deliberate aim, fired. Fisk fell upon the landing, with the simple exclamation, "Oh!" but immediately got on his feet again, and as he did so Stokes fired again. The first shot had taken effect in the abdomen, the second crushed through the fleshy part of the left arm above the elbow. Then he staggered, turned, as if to take refuge in flight, and, partly sliding, reached the bottom of the stairs, where he fell. After firing the second shot, Stokes paused for a single instant as if to look upon his work, then, turning, walked leisurely away. Reaching the door of the ladies' parlour, a few paces distant from the head of the stairs, he stepped inside, and threw his still smoking and blackened pistol upon the sofa. He instantly stepped back into the corridor, and, walking more hurriedly, passed down the grand stairway, which leads up from the main hall and office of the hotel. Just as he gained the hall and was opposite the office he proceeded to the rear entrance, as if seeking to escape by it to Mercer-street. The alarm was raised that a man had been shot up stairs. Hearing this Stokes started on a run, and the proprietor of the hotel, who was behind the desk of the office, cried out "Stop that man." Just as he was only a few steps from the door opening into Mercer-street, Stokes slipped and fell. Before he could regain his feet he was seized by some of the men attached to the hotel, who were in



THE ALGERIAN INSURRECTION : LIEUTENANT-COLONEL GANT RECEIVING THE SUBMISSION OF THE LAST OF THE REBELS.

pursuit of him, and was led back to the bench at the foot of the main stairway, where he was compelled to sit down, and where he was carefully guarded by his captors till the arrival of the police.

All this had occupied but a few moments of time, and meantime the wounded man had again staggered to his feet at the bottom of the stairs, and, assisted by Redmond and others, had managed to ascend the stairs, and was taken into a room and placed upon a bed, being covered with blood which gushed from his shattered arm. The attendants, who knew only of this comparatively trivial hurt, were startled by the sea of blood, and rushed off for assistance. In a moment the room was crowded, and among the first comers were Drs. Fisher and Trifler, both of whom live in the same street. They immediately cleared the room, and proceeded to examine the wounded man. Colonel Fisk was entirely calm and rational, did not complain of pain, and gave a concise but perfectly clear account of how the wounds had been received. The injury to the arm was found to be merely a flesh wound, but the first shot had taken a more deadly course. They saw an orifice five inches above the umbilicus and two inches to the right of the median line. From its appearance they were of opinion that it was mortal. Professor James R. Wood and Dr. James White were sent for. As soon as they reached the room Dr. Wood proceeded to probe the wound. The bullet was found to have taken a course inward, downward, and to the left, penetrating to the walls of the abdomen. Although the wound was probed to the depth of five inches, the bullet was not found. The physicians all agreed that the abdominal wound was of a most serious character, and that the condition of Colonel Fisk was most critical. Its results would, however, be a question of some hours, and, as after a time the sufferer seemed to rally greatly, hopes were entertained that he might ultimately recover. While a full knowledge of what had been done was being learned up stairs, Stokes had been handed over to the police, and, followed by an immense crowd, taken to the station-house in Mercer-street, in charge of Captain Byrnes. On arriving at the house he was arraigned before the desk. Captain Byrnes said, "I am about to ask you some questions, and you can answer them or not, as you wish." Stokes answered instantly, firmly and in a natural voice, "I must tell you at once that I will answer nothing." Captain Byrnes said, "Will you give me your name?" to which Stokes said, "Certainly; my name is Edward S. Stokes. I will give you that, but

nothing more." He was then, by order of Captain Byrnes, locked up in an ordinary cell, where he was soon afterwards visited by his counsel, the Hon. John M'Keon. As soon as Stokes was secured at the police-station, Captain Byrnes, having been informed by the attending surgeons that Mr. Fisk was in a dying condition, at once dispatched an officer to summon Coroner Young to attend for the purpose of taking the statement of the wounded Colonel. Coroner Young, who was soon in attendance, proceeded to the hotel, and, accompanied by Captain Byrnes, was shown into the room where Fisk was lying. A jury was empanelled in due form, and the solemn act of obtaining a deposition of a man suddenly stricken down by the hands of an assassin, and brought to the verge of the grave, was then proceeded with. At this time, in the outer room, could be discerned Boss Tweed, Jay Gould, and other Erie magnates, in close consultation. At the bedside stood Professor James James, R. Wood, and Dr. Fisher, closely examining the features of their patient; while at the foot of the bed loomed the tall and sombre figure of David Dudley Field, the eminent counsel retained by Fisk in the Erie suits. Seated at a table which had been drawn up near to the bed were Coroner Young and Dr. Marsh. The patient was lying on the bed, extended on his back. His left arm, through which a bullet had passed, was lying outside the covers and propped up on a pillow. Fisk was then sworn, and made the following statement:—

"This evening, at about four o'clock, I rode up to the Grand Central Hotel. I went in by the private entrance, and entered the first door. I met the boy, of whom I inquired if Mrs. Moss was in. He told me that Mrs. Moss and her youngest daughter had gone out, but he thought the other daughter was in her grandmother's room. I asked him to go up and tell the daughter I was here. I came through the other door, and was going up stairs, and had gone up a few steps, when, on looking up, I saw Edward S. Stokes at the head of the stairs. As soon as I saw him I noticed that he had something in his hand, and a second after I saw a flash and heard the report, and felt the ball enter my abdomen on the right side. A second after I heard another shot, and the bullet entered my left arm. When I received the first shot I staggered and ran towards the door, but, noticing a crowd gathering in front, I ran back on the stairs again. I was then brought up stairs in the hotel. I saw nothing more of Stokes till he was brought before me by an officer for identification. I fully identify Edward S. Stokes as the person who shot me.—JAMES FISK, jun."

After Fisk had appended his signature to the statement he became very faint, and the attending surgeons were obliged to give him stimulants. The jury, having heard the deposition of Mr. Fisk, returned a verdict "That James Fisk, jun., came to his injuries by pistol-shot wounds at the hands of Edward S. Stokes at the Grand Central Hotel, Jan. 6, 1872." After some time had been spent in the Star Chamber proceedings, Sergeant Carpenter was sent to bring Stokes up from the cell in which he had been confined since his arrest. Excitement announced the approach of Stokes, and all eyes were fixed on the prisoner as he marched behind the reporters. Stokes sustained the trying ordeal well. He walked firmly and quickly behind his escort, his eyes downcast, as though anxious to avoid rather than attract observation. Stokes looked and acted like a well-bred man, and was fashionably attired. Carelessly, but without any bravado, he stepped into the captain's room, and was presented to Coroner Young. The latter official informed him that he had taken the ante-mortem deposition of his victim, and, as required by law, desired to ask him certain questions, but he was at liberty to answer or not. Stokes promptly replied, "I have been advised by my counsel not to answer any questions, or make any statement in regard to this affair; and I must therefore refuse to answer." The Coroner thereupon made out a commitment for Stokes, and placed it in the hands of Captain Byrnes. Stokes was then escorted back to his cell. At the Grand Central Hotel, late into the night, the halls and corridors were alive with excitement. Mr. Fisk's friends, hearing of his having been shot, hurried to the hotel on foot and in carriages, and soon a large number of Erie Railway employés and others interested in Mr. Fisk's fortunes were present. The feeling among these was one of strong indignation. One said, pouring out a volley of oaths, "Let us go to the station-house, and take Stokes, and hang him!" It seemed to want but little urging to make these men follow the lead of the speaker. Considerable sympathy was manifested by those who would have been glad to have had Fisk punished by legal measures.

"Stokes was kept for the night in the police station, to which he was removed after the assassination. He retained perfect self-possession, seemed quite indifferent to his position, and slept soundly for several hours. Early next morning he was removed to the Tombs. On the way he chatted indifferently with the Captain, and asked him if he would get him a bottle of wine, as his stomach was out of order. The Captain refused. Stokes then

begged the Captain to stop and let him have a drink at some bar room. This request was also refused, and finally Stokes ceased his importunities. The Captain remarked that Mr. Fisk was very low, and not expected to live. "I shot him in the abdomen, but I not?" said Stokes. "I saw a wound there when they were carrying him off." The Captain described the nature of Fisk's injuries. "I heard (continued Stokes) that the 9th Regiment fellows were going to burn Mansfield's house inside out last night. Is that true? If some of those Erie fellows were to run across me they would meet their match."

On the 9th the body of Mr. Fisk was removed from New York to Brattleboro', Vermont, where the interment took place. The procession through the city was of immense extent, and the deceased received full military honours.

MUSIC.

THE Crystal Palace Concerts recommenced on Saturday last, when a good programme drew a very large attendance. Mozart's ever welcome overture to "Die Zauberflöte" led off, was played to perfection, and lustily applauded, as became so wonderful an example of profound science and delicate beauty. Following it came Schumann's symphony in B flat (No. 1), a work which cannot fail to interest all who know anything about its author, though it may fail to satisfy those who look for artistic perfection. Being a first attempt at orchestral composition on a grand scale, its deficiencies are not surprising. Schumann afterwards improved in this respect, as every amateur is aware; and his fame will not rest at all, or only in the slightest degree, upon the B flat symphony. The work was played with great care, and tolerably well received. Another important feature of this concert was Beethoven's pianoforte concerto in E flat—the great concerto, which occupies, with regard to its four predecessors, a similar position to that of the ninth symphony with regard to the eight. Its performance is a task from which all but players of the highest order should shrink, and, therefore, no small credit belongs to Mr. Franklin Taylor, in that he justified the boldness of his effort by its results. Mr. Taylor played throughout with remarkable accuracy, as well as in a manner which showed that he had thoroughly mastered every detail. Whether or not he gave a reading marked by an adequate grasp of and sympathy with the composer's intention may be open to dispute; but his excellence on all other points cannot be questioned. The last orchestral piece was the symphonic overture written, a few years ago, for the Philharmonic Society, by Mr. J. F. Barnett. It is an excellent study in orchestral colour and an ingenious elaboration of themes; but the themes themselves are unattractive, while, generally, the materials of the work show a marked want of that creative power which is the rarest and most precious appanage of genius. Madlle. Limia, who has a good mezzo-soprano voice, and Mr. Sims Reeves, were the vocalists. Mr. Reeves delighted his hearers with "Deeper and deeper still" and Weber's "Through the forests."

At the last Monday Popular Concert Mr. C. Hallé introduced a sonata of Schubert's never before heard in St. James's Hall. It is in A minor (a favourite key with the gifted composer), and forms No. 8 of the series. Less lengthy than its companions, it is also less marked by those revelations of unconscious beauty which are the great charm of Schubert's music. The allegretto, however, will always rank among the prime favourites both of amateurs and the public generally, whose thanks Mr. Hallé well earned by bringing forward the work. Other features in the programme were Schumann's pianoforte quartet in E flat, Beethoven's trio for piano and strings in B flat, and Haydn's delightful quartet in F major (op. 77). These are known to, and popular with, the Monday audiences; for which reason we may spare ourselves the trouble of setting forth their claims. The trio and second quartet, moreover, are admitted masterpieces everywhere; but Schumann's work different men have different opinions. Madame Neruda played the first violin, supported by M.M. Ries, Straus, and Patti. The vocalist was Madame Bentham Fernandez, whose pleasing appearance and singing led to her marked success. She was recalled after both her songs—Mozart's "Non so più" and Schubert's "Aufenthalt." The first Saturday Concert of the second series takes place to-day; and on Monday Madame Arabella Goddard will play Dussek's sonata in C minor (first time).

An oratorio concert was given in Exeter Hall on Tuesday, when Mr. J. Barnby conducted a performance of his own "Rebekah," and of Haydn's "Creation." When "Rebekah" was first brought out at St. James's Hall, and again when it was heard at the Hereford Festival of 1870, we discussed its merits. Now, therefore, we will simply record the fact that increased acquaintance does not lead to warmer approval. Mr. Barnby's music is too much an echo of other men's music, besides which there are radical defects in the construction of the cantata. It was well performed, the soloists being Madame de Wilhorst, Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Maas, and Herr Stockhausen, who also took part in "The Creation." Mr. Reeves's singing of "In native worth" was the great feature of the evening, and will not readily be forgotten.

The fourth London Ballad Concert took place, in St. James's Hall, on Wednesday. Its programme comprised, as usual, a large number of songs, old and new—among the latter being a composition by Miss Ward, entitled "Mine Own." This is a very expressive effusion, with subject and music alike adapted to obtain popularity. The singer was Mr. Sims Reeves, who, with Madame Sherrington and the other artists intrusted by Mr. Boosey with the welfare of his enterprise, again gave much satisfaction. Madlle. Flora Heilbron was the pianist.

Mr. Leslie's prospectus for the coming season announces four concerts, at one of which will be produced an oratorio by Carissimi, entitled "Jonah." As Carissimi died so far back as 1670, this must be one of the earliest works of the kind, and its performance will excite proportionate interest.

On Thursday week the first conversazione of the session in connection with the Society for the Encouragement of the Fine Arts took place at the gallery of the Society of British Artists, Suffolk-street, Pall-mall. It was numerously and fashionably attended. The fine collection of pictures now on view in the Suffolk-street Gallery proved a great attraction, and drew forth many expressions of admiration from the visitors. The chairman of the council, Captain J. Britten, and Mr. George Browning, the honorary secretary, supported by Mr. Henry Tidey (V.P.), Mr. Temple (deputy chairman), Mr. G. R. Ward, Mr. Houston, and several other members of the council, received the guests as they arrived. Selections of vocal and instrumental music from the works of Handel, Rossini, Mozart, Mendelssohn, and other composers were given during the evening—Madame Osborne Williams, Mr. Percy River, and Signor Adelmann being the vocalists, while Mr. W. H. Holmes, Mr. Alfred Gilbert, and Signor Pizzi performed on the piano and violoncello. We think much praise is due to Mr. Alfred Gilbert, the honorary musical director, for the good taste displayed in the selection of the music, and to the artistes for its brilliant execution. During the intervals the company promenaded the various rooms and inspected the pictures, which, in combination with the musical portion of the soirée, whiled away a few hours most pleasantly. The company remained until a late hour.

THE ECLIPSE EXPEDITION.—The last number of *Nature* contains highly interesting accounts of the late solar eclipse from Mr. Norman Lockyer and Captain Maclear. The latter writes:—"The rumours that our presence gave rise to among the natives were very amusing. First we heard that part of the sun was about to fall, and the wise men had come to the East to prevent it. Then when the formidable looking instruments were seen mounted on the fort, they thought there was a war, and we were engineers going to put the fort in order to prevent a landing. This was strengthened by the fact that the Glasgow practised at a target before returning to Ceylon. This gave place to a flood about to descend, and all the Europeans were crowding the high ground to escape it. When the eclipse commenced the usual shouting and beating of tom-toms went on, but a dozen of police prevented an invasion of the observatory, and only a confused noise from below reached us."

EDUCATION FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB.

A LECTURE was delivered on the 17th inst., in the rooms of the Society of Arts, by Mr. G. W. Dasent, D.C.L., on "The Oral Education of the Deaf and Dumb." The chair was taken by Sir Charles Trevelyan, and many ladies and gentlemen specially interested in the subject were present.

Mr. Dasent commenced his lecture by referring to the admitted claim of children to receive education at the hands of the holy politic, and proceeded to illustrate the condition of the deaf mutes of the community by comparing them to a colony of foreigners or savages, able to speak, but ignorant of the tongue spoken around them, and driven to express their wants by gestures. It would be the natural impulse of all tender-hearted persons to pity such foreigners, to teach them, and to raise them from the position of a sign-making to that of an articulate-talking portion of the Commonwealth. Among us there exists such an afflicted, outcast race, only they are not imaginary aliens, but our own flesh and blood, known to all of us as the "deaf and dumb." There was a blind superstition connected with the deaf and dumb both in heathen and mediæval times. By their dumbness the Deity was supposed to have set a mark upon them, which at once separated them from man, and reduced them to the state of brutes. We recognise the first sympathy with this afflicted class at the end of the sixteenth century. It was in Spain, the land of noble exceptions, that the first systematic attempt to consider the deaf and dumb as rational beings, and to show that they were capable of articulate speech, was made by Pedro de Ponce, a Spanish monk at Sahagun, and confessor to the King. In England it was William Holder, and especially Wallis, Professor of Mathematics, at the end of the seventeenth century, in the University of Oxford, who distinguished themselves by similar acts of philanthropy. In Holland, the oral instruction of the deaf and dumb found an advocate in the physician Amman; in Germany, Kreyer, of Liegnitz in Silesia; and Schultz, in Dresden. These were but individual efforts of isolated philanthropists, though they are remarkable as agreeing in one thing, and that is the possibility of instructing this afflicted class of persons in articulate speech. It was soon detected—very soon in fact, after the recognition of the deaf and dumb as rational beings—that the degrading position in which they stood, compared with others of the community, arose not only from their loss of one sense, but from the isolation of the senses from one another, which was the result of their sad infirmity. In this respect our ears may be called the masters of the ceremonies of life. They introduce the several senses to one another, and enable the seeing, smelling, tasting, and touching child to know what sight, and taste, and touch really mean, and how they stand in mutual relations, and combined helpfulness, to one another. The senses stand, five sisters in a row, ready to move in graceful harmony. Of these, the eldest and most directing is hearing, and if she be missing, the action of the rest is gone, and their motions confused and imperfect. It is now, I believe, almost universally recognised that what we call dumbness in the human being is caused, in a vast majority of cases, solely by the loss of hearing; but it was not understood in earlier times. Hardly had the deaf and dumb attained their natural right, reason, which the earlier ages had denied them, than the theory arose that their dumbness was caused by an imperfection in the organs of speech. That, you will say, was soon set right. Not at all. It was ultimately set right, but not so soon. It is now universally admitted that the cause of dumbness in the human being is either congenital deafness, or deafness, more or less total, caused by eruptive diseases, the chief of these being scarlet fever. I believe, also, it has been observed as a fact that the being totally or partially deaf makes little difference in children of tender years, so far as dumbness is concerned, although, of course, a boy or girl who had lost his or her hearing from disease, having already heard, and so received some previous education, would be in a far better position than a child congenitally deaf. A certain, but not a large proportion of the deaf and dumb are idiots; but, as the idiocy of these unfortunate is only accessory to and in no wise caused by their defect of hearing, just as there are idiots who are lame or blind, such cases must be eliminated from our inquiry, and referred to the category of mental and moral afflictions, just as, in the asylums and institutions for the education and relief of the deaf and dumb, only those children who are not idiots are received as objects of instruction and charity. If anyone desires to know what proportion the deaf and dumb bear to the rest of the community, statistics tell us that, on an average, there are 700 deaf and dumb persons in every million of the inhabitants of the earth, so that there would be 200,000 of these unfortunate in Europe alone. The average proportion of the deaf and dumb to the rest of the population all over Great Britain is 1 in 1670; in Ireland it is 1 in 1380 persons. At the Census for 1851 12,553 persons (6881 males and 5669 females) were returned as deaf and dumb in Great Britain; and in the twenty years which have since elapsed the number of those unfortunate has proportionately increased. It is curious to remark, that all over the world, so far as statistics afford us any information, the number of males born deaf and dumb is considerably above that of females similarly afflicted. In Great Britain there are 121 male deaf mutes to 100 females. There still remains a fact, which it is more important to note than any other connected with these unfortunate, that throughout the country a very small number of the whole amount of deaf and dumb were returned as inmates at asylums or schools. In 1851, when we have seen that the total number was 12,553, only 1100 were returned as receiving special education. Nor is there any reason to suppose that this amount of pupils is exceeded at the present day, though the total number of the deaf and dumb in this country has probably increased to upwards of 20,000. We are now approaching what may be called the era of institutions for the deaf and dumb, which might rather be called institutions for relieving the parents of deaf and dumb children from the claims of natural affection. One would almost think, when one sees the alacrity with which deaf and dumb children are huddled away and kept out of sight, that it was still considered that they were born under a curse. It seems hard to say so, but I firmly believe it to be the truth that, under the cloak of the most charitable intentions, there often exists a refinement of inhumanity. I detect this in all those institutions for the deaf and dumb which, while relieving the parents of deaf and dumb children of the care of their support and instruction, separate a human being from domestic and public life, and throw him, designed by Providence to live in the family and the State, into a separate world of his own, where he lives an isolated and imperfect existence with others as afflicted as himself. It is an aggravation of this inhumanity to educate one so afflicted by signs, and then, after years of instruction on the level of that which might be bestowed on apes if they were only a little more rational, to turn him back into this great world to make his way as best he can by gestures—to work with his hands, but to talk with his fingers, if he is so fortunate as to find persons able to converse with him in that most imperfect fashion. The lecturer then proceeded to sketch the origin and progress of the French system of teaching by signs, which originated with the Abbé de l'Epée, and which conveyed to its pupils the power to translate gestures into written words, but not to translate the words into ideas. Of course there are certain signs which may be called "natural," which all children make use of in infancy to express their wants. In children whose senses are sound, and who possess all the organs necessary for articulate speech, the process of education is to wean those little ones, so to speak, from such necessary signs and tokens; and when a nurse says to a baby which is pointing and gesturing for something that it wants, "Ask for it baby; speak prettily for it," she is engaged in annihilating the brute and cherishing the human elements which exist in all of us. We have already seen that, from the sixteenth century at least, it had been always asserted, and more or less successfully proved, that the deaf and dumb could speak if properly taught. This school of teachers, which may be called the Dutch or the German school, is that to which it is now desired more particularly to call attention. It uses the eye just as the French school uses it, for the purposes of drawing and

writing, which must necessarily form so large a portion of the education of the deaf and dumb; but it goes beyond this, and uses the eye to supply the place of the ears by an ingenious system of teaching, to the results of which, and not to the process itself, I must confine myself to-night. Articulate speech is, of course, the crowning triumph of the system; but not less wonderful is what is called in the German system "lip reading," by which the deaf and dumb use their eyes to understand what is spoken. It seems a strange thing, but it is no less true, that deaf and dumb children, especially if taken into tuition at an early age, may be taught to understand, with amazing quickness of perception, whatever is spoken within eyeshot. Anyone who has had the good fortune—as I have had—to visit the school of which Mr. Van Praagh is the conductor, in the Euston-road, or who has been permitted to see some of the children taught by him, cannot fail to be deeply interested in the philanthropic patience and industry of that gentleman and in the success of his teaching. So perfectly has this process of education been carried out in individual cases, that persons thus educated are able to carry with them a sermon or a speech by only observing the motion of the lips and the play of the countenance of the speaker or preacher; and in one case of which I have heard the preacher, ignorant of the infirmity under which a regular attendant at his church suffered, sent to beg that So-and-So would not stare at him so hard, as it put him out in his sermon. Far different from such practical results are those attained by the system pursued at the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, with its machinery of signs. Here are the deaf and dumb restored, by the intelligent use of their eyesight, to the lost sense of hearing, and ready, on leaving school, to enter the world, understanding the language of man. But, after all, the crowning triumph of the German system is the undoubted fact that, in a majority of instances, deaf and dumb children, if properly taught, if the system of signs be prohibited, and they are instructed, as by patience and perseverance they can be, in articulate speech, may be restored to the world not only able to understand but able to converse with their fellow-men. It is no objection to this part of the system to say that it is not successful, on the ground that the utterance of the deaf and dumb so taught is inharmonious. Probably, except in some very few cases, the speech of all such persons will have something harsh and monotonous in its delivery; but I can safely say that it is perfectly intelligible. And, even if it be discordant and inharmonious, I would willingly put it to any one of you, if he were deaf and dumb himself, or had a child so afflicted, whether he would not prefer that he or his child should speak inharmoniously and yet be placed into articulate communication with their fellow-creatures, than that he should possess the most refined system of signs or finger language, and still be deprived of articulate speech. I have now sufficiently exhausted your patience, but I could not do justice to the subject, however imperfectly, at less length. A visit last summer to the school taught by Mr. Van Praagh, in the Euston-road, and supported by the Jewish community with boundless charity—boundless not only to those of their own creed, but also to all denominations—a charity which often puts our Christian charity to shame—made me feel that I had, so far as my small influence went, treated a most suffering class all my life long with the great injustice of neglect, and I have since striven to repair it. At the last meeting of the Social Science Congress a paper on the subject was read by Mr. Dalby, aural surgeon to St. George's Hospital, and excited the warm interest of the congress. Believing, as we do, that the education of the deaf and dumb in institutions and by the French system of signs is false in principle and pernicious in practice, we have resolved to form ourselves into an association for founding a normal day-school on the Dutch or German system, in which, by a full staff of teachers—and such a school will require many teachers—we may prove to the community at large the benefits of a method of education for the deaf and dumb, which has been talked of, indeed, but never properly tried in this country. If we fail in our benevolent intentions, we shall, at least, fail with the conviction in our hearts that we have deserved success. But, in conclusion, let me tell you that we do not intend to fail; for with your sympathy, and when the German system becomes better known, we trust that the day will come when lip-reading and articulate speech will be the rule rather than the exception in the education of the deaf and dumb, and when the French system of gesticulation, grimace, and signs will be thrown aside as a thing of the past, and no longer be considered worthy to be dignified with the name of education for the class in question.

At the close of the lecture, which occupied an hour and ten minutes, in very rapid delivery, and of which the foregoing is but an abstract, the Rev. Mr. Watson, the Principal of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, in the Old Kent-road, rose to defend what may now be called the old school of deaf teaching. He averred that of the pupils of that institution as many were taught to speak as were capable of learning, and that some were taught to speak well. He defended the retention of signs, stating that education could be carried further by their use, in a given time, than without them. He was followed by Mr. Stainer, a teacher of and missionary among the deaf and dumb, who laid stress upon the importance of language as distinct from speech, and who offered to exhibit a pupil who could read aloud intelligibly after four years' instruction. Both these gentlemen rather missed the real point at issue—the isolation of the deaf that results from their use of sign language. They were followed by Mr. Van Praagh, who introduced some pupils (quite little children), and made them talk to the chairman and answer simple questions put to them. Mr. Van Praagh also introduced to the meeting Mr. Polano, of Leyden, who, although absolutely deaf, conversed in German and Dutch with gentlemen among the audience. There was, from time to time, a little sharp sparring between the representatives of the Kent-road institution and the advocates of the new system; and the audience were invited to visit both schools and to examine and test the two systems for themselves. Finally, votes of thanks were accorded to the lecturer and the chairman, and the meeting dispersed, leaving a general impression that the system of sign teaching and finger talking, although likely to die hard, has, nevertheless, received its death blow.

MR. BASS, M.P., is very unwell, and has not been able to leave his house for several days past.

NATIONAL SUNDAY LEAGUE.—A public meeting, convened by the Council of the National Sunday League, was held, on Monday night, at Sussex Hall, Bouverie-street, Fleet-street, in furtherance of the movement for opening the national museums and galleries on Sunday afternoons. There was a good attendance. Mr. R. M. Morell occupied the chair. The chairman, in opening the proceedings, said this was the first of a series of public meetings intended to be called by the council of the league preparatory to the motion to be introduced into Parliament during the coming Session for throwing open to the public on Sunday afternoons all the national museums and art-galleries. This had been one of the main objects of the league when it was first formed, and it was now intended that this object should be vigorously agitated, with a view to speedy and ultimate success. Mr. Alzager Hay Hill having read a long and interesting paper on "Labour in its relations to the Sabbath," several gentlemen addressed the meeting in support of its object, and a resolution was adopted to support the council of the league in its attempt to obtain a free Sunday for the people.

BONUS DISTRIBUTIONS.—The *Financier* mentions several payments of bonuses to the officers and clerks in private and joint-stock banking institutions of London. In some instances these establishments have had so remarkable a career of prosperity that the yearly gratuities of ten per cent on their salaries has come to be regarded by the officers as part and parcel of their income. The staff of the London and Westminster Bank, for example, has received a gratuity of ten per cent each Christmas for at least nineteen years. That of the National Provincial Bank of England has received a similar amount each year, with only one or two exceptions during an equally long period, and on one occasion no less than fifteen per cent gratuity was distributed. This Christmas has been a specially fortunate one for the various officers of the private banks. Some of the bonuses given this year in these directions have been on a scale of exceptional liberality. Among the clerks who have thus benefited this year have been three of Messrs. Glyn, Mills, and Co., Messrs. Smith, Payne, and Co., Messrs. Drummond, Messrs. Herries, Farquhar, and Co., Messrs. Barclay, Bayan, and Co., Messrs. Barnett, Hoare, and Co., and Messrs. Ransom.

THE TICHBORNE TRIAL.

WHEN the Attorney-General resumed his speech on Friday week, he referred at length to the history of the claimant's visit to Wapping immediately upon his arrival in this country from Australia. He spoke of the disguises which the plaintiff adopted on that occasion; and asked why, if the man were Roger Tichborne, should such secrecy and deception have been practised? Again, when he assumed the name of Stevens, what made him represent a photograph of his own wife and child as those of Arthur Orton? Why did he not go at once to Lady Tichborne, or to the Seymours, or to some other near connection of the family? Once more, when he went to Alresford, under the name of Taylor, was it likely that the real Roger Tichborne would have muffed himself up, and induced some one to drive round Tichborne Park in disguise? The learned gentleman read several letters of Roger to Gosford to show the difference in style between them and the correspondence of the claimant. He afterwards analysed the testimony of Mr. Baigent on several points of importance, and spoke of many of the incidents surrounding the identity of the claimant by the Dowager Lady Tichborne as being of a very unsatisfactory character.

On Monday, the Attorney-General first spoke of the "test-letter," referred to in the evidence of Mr. Baigent as having been written by the claimant, as really nothing of the kind, but prepared like many others with a great deal of artifice, and under the inspiration of Rouse. He then examined in detail the incidents of the meeting between Hopkins, Baigent, and the plaintiff, remarking that probably these three persons had but little idea of the mischief that must arise from the putting forward of the present claim, but which had been irreparable. The learned counsel also went at length through the contents of the various deeds relating to the settlement of the Tichborne property, as these documents had been set forth in the legal proceedings which had succeeded the return of the claimant to this country. Several errors in the plaintiff's description of these deeds were pointed out. In analysing the evidence of Colonel Lushington, the nominal defendant, Sir John Coleridge reminded the jury that previously to his visit to Tichborne Hall the claimant had studied a catalogue of the pictures, and was thus enabled to recognise the portrait of the Dowager. Besides, Bogle had been in all the rooms, and had probably given the plaintiff every information. After some references to the peculiarities of the claimant's orthography, the Attorney-General passed on to notice the testimony of Carter and McCann, who had been with Roger Tichborne in the army, stating that he would call fifteen or sixteen officers, who would give their opinion that the story was altogether trumped up, and that the claimant was nothing but an impostor.

On Tuesday the Attorney-General examined in detail the incidents of the interviews which the claimant had with Mrs. Radcliffe and the other members of the Tichborne family some time after his arrival in this country. The learned counsel pointed out the blunders committed by the plaintiff on these occasions—such, for instance, as his mistaking Mrs. Radcliffe for her cousin, Mrs. Towneley. In dissecting the evidence given by the military witnesses, Sir John Coleridge commented on the remarkable fact that the claimant had professed to recognise them all at a glance, although when confronted with the members of the Tichborne family, with whom he should have lived for years, he did not know them. The latter part of the Attorney-General's speech was devoted to a history and a criticism of the steps taken to procure the identity of the plaintiff by Mr. Biddulph, the only member of the family, with the exception of the deceased Dowager, who had recognised him as Roger Tichborne.

On Wednesday, the Attorney-General read at considerable length the claimant's examination in Chancery in 1867. His object was to show the manner of the answers then given, and how particular bits of evidence were obtained from him. The account given by the plaintiff of his rescue from the wreck of the *Bella* was also commented upon, and its inconsistencies pointed out. One feature of the case, according to the learned counsel, was particularly striking. The life of Roger Tichborne, while he was in France, was almost altogether a sealed book to the plaintiff, except as to one or two things which he might have learnt from the Dowager. His absence of knowledge concerning his companions and course of education at Stonyhurst was likewise remarked upon. The Attorney-General asked the jury to contrast what would have been the evidence of the real Roger with the miserable scraps of testimony fished up by the claimant. Much of the knowledge which he possessed was of the kind picked up by gipsies, and afterwards used for the purposes of their frauds. Sir John Coleridge traced many of the plaintiff's movements since his arrival in this country, and placed before the jury some of what he termed the weak points in the evidence of identification.

On Thursday, Sir J. D. Coleridge criticised the readiness with which the military and other witnesses had formed their opinions in favour of the claimant, and gave some instances. He said:—"Colonel Sawyer, a very honourable gentleman, had been converted to the claimant's side because, in an interview with him, the claimant had reminded him of an occurrence with a chestnut horse, which ran away and killed the groom; and further, that the Carabiniers, in going from Dublin to Canterbury, were first conveyed by steamer to Herne Bay. But both these facts had been communicated to the claimant by Carter three months before, and therefore his knowledge of them, although it might have been startling at that time, was not so now, viewed by the light of the facts which had since been ascertained. The claimant went to the White Horse at Romney, and there saw Captain and Mrs. Sherstone, who seemed to have a strong preconceived opinion in favour of him, because he knew Major Norbury, and others said they had recognised him. Though Captain Sherstone was convinced the claimant was Roger Tichborne, yet he afterwards made two admissions, which, if true, must be fatal to the value of his evidence. He said he was surprised to find the claimant taller and stouter and that his hair had grown lighter. Mr. Baigent had tried to explain away the change in the colour of the hair by saying that fat people's

hair always got lighter. But the claimant's hair was curly, and the hair of the real Roger Tichborne never curled at all. Would Mr. Baigent say that when people got stout their hair began to curl? Mrs. Sherstone was positive—like most of her sex—of the claimant's identity because of his accent; but this evidence was worthless, because it would be proved beyond doubt that the claimant put on the French accent in order to deceive people, and that in ordinary conversation with his attorney and others he had no accent at all. The claimant had no doubt managed to get a number of officers of the Carabiniers to speak in his favour, but for the defence fifteen or sixteen officers would be called who would swear that in their opinion the claimant was an arrant impostor. It was here worthy of notice that over and over again the officers of the Carabiniers invited the claimant to meet them in a body at their mess, but no power on earth could get him to go near them, and he never did. The claimant convinced a man named O'Ryan that he was Roger Tichborne by recalling to his recollection some wrestling which took place at the house of a Mr. Sergeant, at Cahir, in Ireland. O'Ryan was under the impression that Roger Tichborne was the person who wrestled, and the claimant adopted his mistake by saying he did; but Mr. Sergeant would be called, and he would swear that Roger Tichborne never wrestled at all on the occasion referred to, and that it was another person altogether.

LONDON POLICE COURTS.

A VESTRY IN REBELLION.—At Worship-street, on Tuesday, 120 persons, vestrymen of the parish of St. Leonard, Shoreditch, were summoned to show cause why they had neglected, contrary to an order in writing made in due form, and signed by the chairman of the board of guardians for the parish, to pay over to the said board a sum of £4500 in October last, and a like sum of £4500 in December last, such sums being contributions required by the board of guardians for the performance of their duties in the parish. Mr. G. Taylor, barrister, instructed by Mr. Childs, supported the summonses; and Mr. Besley, barrister, represented the vestrymen. Mr. Enoch Walker, clerk to the vestry, was also in attendance. Considerable excitement had been created in the parish—a very large one—by these proceedings, and the court was densely crowded. Mr. Taylor said the guardians were acting under the orders of the Poor-Law Board, but proceeding under a local Act. The vestrymen had been summoned to pay the sum of £4500 three times, and since these proceedings had been commenced one sum had been paid. He hoped that the others would have been procured and the matter satisfied. It was very necessary that the money should be paid, so as to provide for the poor, to manage and provide for whom the board of forty guardians was constituted by the 21st and 22nd Victoria. By other sections of the same Act they were empowered to make the rates, and every clerk, collector, &c., was to deliver the same, when collected, to the treasurer of the board. Quarterly accounts were delivered by the clerk of the board of guardians to the vestry, so that they might have every knowledge of the state of the parish accounts. The vestry, however, under the Metropolitan Poor Act, 1867, were overseers, and liable for the payment of the "contributions" required by the guardians. These proceedings were authorised by the first section of the 2nd and 3rd Victoria, cap. 84, which section also gave the magistrate or justices power to order the amount of the "contribution," with costs, to be paid to the said board, and they might also be recovered by distress. The "contribution" orders in question were made in due form and signed by the chairman for the time being. These orders had not been obeyed, and, under the section last quoted, it was asked that an order for the payment of these large sums might be made. This was the application now. What the objection could be to it he could not say; but in favour of it he would only remark that the parish had "outrun the constable," were indebted to their treasurer, and if they did not have money, if these sums were not paid, the paupers must starve. Mr. Besley said that he had to take an objection to the form of the summons and ask that it be discharged. The vestry were a body corporate, and must be summoned through their clerk, but the summons presented the names of 120 persons, and, strange to say, among those names (of defendants) appeared twenty of the guardians who were complainants. The question, however, between the vestry and the board was, had the former not a right to a quarterly account of the expenditure and balance? The board might say that there was no board clerk, but this was the case as it stood. Since 1867 no accounts had been delivered. In that year the sum drawn by the "contribution" order amounted to £62,000, but the following year, when no accounts were delivered, the total reached was £82,000. A long correspondence ensued, and so things went on to Michaelmas last. The half-year's account had reached £33,000, and the guardians delayed to make a rate. The vestry desired to enforce by the law their right to have a quarterly account of the expenditure and balance, and felt that to put pressure upon rate-payers for such large sums, without knowing how they were spent, was not to take care of their interests. Mr. Bushby wished to know if the learned counsel drew a distinction between the vestry and vestrymen. Mr. Besley replied in the affirmative. It was a body corporate, he said, and could not be summoned individually. He would ask, too, what order the magistrate could possibly make upon the summons before him. He should ask that the summons be dismissed, leaving the vestry to try their right to have an account before the Poor-Law Board, and the guardians to take out another summons if they thought fit. The arrears were large, he might say, in consequence of having to pay a heavy police rate at Christmas last; but one sum of £4500 had been paid since these proceedings had been taken out; another sum would be paid before this month was out; and by March 9 it was calculated there would be no arrears left. Mr. Bushby said that he would consider the technical objection raised, but meanwhile it might be as well to proceed with the case on its merits, and so save time. Mr. Taylor said that there appeared to be already a good deal of feeling in the parish upon the matter. He was anxious to terminate this, and did not think that the cross-examination

would tend towards that object. He would suggest that the present summonses should be adjourned until March to see if by then all arrears were paid. All they were anxious for was to save the paupers from starving, and the contractors for supplies would be paid; but the guardians had no means to pay them. Mr. Besley said that this was the guardians' own fault for allowing themselves to run out and not make another rate. Mr. Taylor produced a letter from the bank to the Poor-Law Board, saying that the guardians' account was overdrawn £16,000, and could not be allowed to go on. Eventually, after some discussion, Mr. Taylor consented to the withdrawal of the summonses, without costs; and it was understood that no further proceedings would be taken before March.

HAWKERS' LICENSES.—At Greenwich, on Tuesday, two young girls were charged with offering goods for sale without a license. Among the articles hawked were some cotton caps, which were said to be the work of one of them. The magistrate said the old law gave the makers of articles and their children and apprentices liberty to sell them, but by the new Pedlars Act this right was taken away. The mother of one of the girls said she had a license under the Act of 1870, which would not expire until the 28th inst., but which she had unfortunately lost. Inspector Browning stated that the 1870 license would remain in force for twelve months from the time of being taken out; but on the expiration of the license another would not be granted, as the new Act did not allow of licenses being granted to girls under seventeen years of age, but the old Act did. The prisoners had been taken into custody at half-past three in the afternoon, but had been set at liberty to attend the court that morning, the law not allowing persons taken into custody under the Act to be detained longer than twelve hours before being taken before a magistrate. Mr. Maude said he would not convict the prisoners now, but, having had the law explained to them, they must not offend again. The old law granting a six-penny license to pedlars, and increasing the cost to 5s., had been wisely abolished, as it only encouraged beggars.

MYSTERIOUS OCCURRENCE NEAR DERBY.—An affair singularly suspicious has just occurred near Derby. In the early part of last month a young man, twenty years of age, named William Copstick, who was employed as a "horse-driver" at Chaddesden sidings—a dépôt for goods on transit by the Midland Railway Company, about two miles from Derby—suddenly disappeared, and although the most diligent inquiries were prosecuted by the authorities of the borough and county police, no trace of his whereabouts could be obtained. His father, who is said to be a well-to-do farmer, residing at Bradley, near Ashbourne (Derbyshire), assisted in the inquiry, but to no purpose. At the young man's lodgings, on the Nottingham-road, it was found that his best wearing apparel had been left undisturbed, and that he had eight days' wages due to him from the Midland Railway Company. It also seemed that the day he so mysteriously disappeared he had left his watch to be repaired at a jeweller's shop in Derby. Other suspicious circumstances pointing to foul play having transpired, a reward of £20 was offered for the discovery of the young man. It was subsequently ascertained by the police that he had been seen drinking with some loose women (who were in the company of various low characters), and that they all left a public-house together in the Morledge at a very late hour at night. It was known that the young fellow had money in his possession, and as he had to cross the "Long Bridge" over the Derwent, it was thought at one time that they might have followed and attempted to rob him, and that, as he resisted their efforts, they threw him over the wooden bridge into the river. On Sunday morning last a body was seen floating in the Derwent, at Alvaston, a village two or three miles from Derby, and was discovered to be that of the young man who had been missing for seven or eight weeks. The features were scarcely recognisable: he had on the whole of his clothing, and in his pocket was found some money and other articles.

THE NEW IRISH JUDGE.—The Right Hon. Charles Robert Barry, late Attorney-General for Ireland, who has been appointed fourth Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench in Dublin, in succession to the late Right Hon. John George, is the eldest son of the late Mr. James Barry, solicitor, of Limerick, by Ellen, daughter of Mr. John Purcell, of the same place. He was born in 1824, and received his education successively at Dalton's School, Limerick; at Middleton College, in the county of Cork; and at Trinity College, Dublin, where he obtained first honours in science, and graduated B.A. in 1845, taking the degree of M.A. in 1862. He was called to the Bar in Ireland in 1845, and was created a Queen's Counsel in 1859. He was first Crown Prosecutor for Dublin from 1859 to 1865, and Law Adviser from 1865 till July, 1866, when he retired from office with the Russell Administration. He was first returned to the House of Commons for Dungarvan, at the general election in 1865, but was defeated at the general election in 1868, as our readers may remember, by Mr. Henry Matthews. On the formation of Mr. Gladstone's Administration, in December of that year, he was appointed Solicitor-General for Ireland; and was promoted to the Attorney-Generalship in 1870, on Mr. Sullivan becoming Master of the Rolls. Mr. Justice Barry was married, in 1855, to Kate, third daughter of the late Mr. John Fitzgerald, of Dublin, and sister to Mr. Justice Fitzgerald.

SHOCKING MURDER AND SUICIDE.—On Monday night a shocking case of wife murder was discovered in St. Luke-street, Birmingham. For some years past a man named Thomas Picken has resided with his wife, named Sarah, aged sixty, and a grown-up son, at No. 6 in that street. The husband was formerly a well-to-do farmer in Shropshire, but had dissipated his property, and been reduced to the condition of a labourer. He had constantly quarrelled with his wife and threatened "to do for her" and himself. On Monday evening his son returned home at half-past nine, and met his father at the door, who told him he was going to get some ale. The son went into the house and found his mother lying in the kitchen, dead. Search was made for the father, but unsuccessfully until about nine o'clock on

Tuesday morning, when information was received at the Alcester-street police-station that he had been found by a railway official hung on a lamp-post on the Midland Railway, near the station at Montpelier-place, and quite dead. The man had hung himself with a leather strap which he usually wore round his waist. In his hat the following communication was found, written with ink on a dirty piece of paper:—"My name's Thomas Picken, please right to my brother John Picken, Coppice-green, near Sheafall, Shropshire. I am in a club there." Some railings were near, on which he must have mounted in order to accomplish his purpose.

DEATH OF GENERAL SIR ALEXANDER LINDSAY, K.C.B.—The above-named venerable and gallant General (with the exception of Field Marshal Sir George Pollock, G.C.B., the oldest General of the Bengal Artillery), died, on Saturday last, at Earlybank, his residence in Pershire, in his eighty-seventh year. After receiving his military education at Woolwich, so that he had been nearly seventy years in the service. Sir Alexander served with the subsidiary force in Gohud and Gwalior under Colonel Bowie in 1805 and 1806, and was present at the siege of Gohud in 1806; was present at the sieges of Kommonah and Gunnowrie in 1807, and at the capture of some small forts in the Gondwana district in 1808. He served throughout both campaigns of the Nepal war with the Dinapore division of the army in 1814-15 and 1816, when he commanded the artillery of the right column of Sir David Ochterlony's army, and was severely wounded in the action on the heights of Harrypur, on March 1, 1816, a musket-ball having shattered the forefinger and thumb of his right hand and entered the right hip close to the joint. In 1817 he served with the force under Major-General Marshall, and was present at the siege of Hattrass; and with the left division of the grand army during the Pindaree war in 1817-18, including the sieges and capture of the forts of Dhamoonee, Mundelah, and Chowrighur. Sir Alexander was subsequently superintendent of the telegraphic communication between Calcutta and Chunar; was agent for the manufacture of gunpowder at Allahabad from 1820 till his promotion, in 1824, to Lieutenant-Colonel. He was appointed to command the artillery with the division under Brigadier-General Morrison in the Burmese War, and assisted at the attack on, and capture of, Aracan in 1825. He had received the medal and clasp for Nepal and Ava; was created a companion of the Order of the Bath for his military services in 1831, and was promoted to a Knight Commander of the order in 1862. The following are the dates of his commissions:—First Lieutenant, Aug. 14, 1804; Captain, March 26, 1813; Major, June 30, 1820; Lieutenant-Colonel, May 1, 1824; Colonel, July 2, 1835; Major-General, June 28, 1838; Lieutenant-General, Nov. 11, 1851; General, Sept. 11, 1859. Sir Alexander married, in 1820, Miss Mackenzie, daughter of Captain Donald Mackenzie, of Hartfield, Appletree, Ross-shire, who died in 1863.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, JAN. 19.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—Lord G. W. LOFTUS Edward-street, Portman-square. BANKRUPT.—T. QUINN, Great St. Helen's, City, and Forest-hill, merchant and builder—M. RUTTER, Endell-street and Covent-garden, fruit dealer—J. VARNAM, Whitecross-street—G. CHETWYND, Royal Exchange, coal and coke merchant—E. G. QUAY, draper—F. A. PRICE, Liverpool, provision-dealer—S. ROBERTS, Liverpool, flour dealer—W. J. WILKINS, Maidstone, tailors and drapers—J. WILKINS, Brighton, innkeeper.

TUESDAY, JAN. 23.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.—J. CARLISLE, Carlisle Cumberland, druggist—J. PEARN, Reigate Lezant, Cornwall, farmer—D. GOSTLING, Preston-street, Brighton, tailor—JOHN and JAMES BEATTIE, Great Winchester-street-buildings, City, merchants. BANKRUPTS.—R. K. MANN, Lime-street-chambers, City, merchant—J. CANEVILLE, Ormskirk, victualler—F. J. MAKIN, Darnall, Sheffield, slate merchant—S. H. WARDEBURG, Manchester, shipping agent.

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RHEUMATISM.

Henry D. Brandreth.—Sir—I beg to inform you of a wonderful cure effected by Allcock's Porous Plasters. Ellen Yates, living at 1, Priory-terrace, called here to-night to say that she had been much affected with Rheumatism, and could not dress herself for a fortnight; but after applying one of your plasters for a single night, was much better, and in a few days able to dress herself about, and do domestic duties as usual. She is willing I should inform you of this, and allow you to publish it. Further, I may add that the plasters are giving universal satisfaction and that their praise is in everyone's mouth.—I remain, yours respectfully, B. ENTWISTLE, Dentist and Chemist.

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